

Book Reviews

(1) **THE STORY OF COAL.** (2) **THE STORY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.** By D. Chandra, Dev Sahitya Kutir Pvt. Ltd., 21, Jhamapukar Lane, Calcutta-9, Price 16/- each.

The two books under review are the first of a series of books on our Energy Resources attempted by the author, to bring about an awareness among our people. The booklet on coal running to 35 pages briefly deals with the mode of occurrence of coal, its properties, and its origin. The mining methods employed and the preparation of coal are narrated, ending with a note on the need for conservation of coal. The presentation is simple and straight forward and should interest an average high school student.

The second book on the Story of Nuclear Energy (40 pages) starts with a simple narration of the structure of the atom and is followed by a section on isotopes and another on what is meant by nuclear fission. The enormous amount of energy that is released in this process and the way this energy is being developed in India are other aspects covered. Though brief, it has brought out all the important aspects of nuclear energy which an average student should know. Our only criticism is regarding the quality of illustrations. These could have been better.

The books are welcome additions to our growing literature on science subjects. These are sure to contribute to the popularisation of science among our student population.

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA

JOURNAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA. No. 1, 1988, pp. 1-115.

This is the first issue of the new Journal, the official organ of the Geological Society of Sri Lanka. We welcome it, since it serves to focus attention on the fascinating geology and natural resources of an important segment of Gondwanaland. Being our close neighbour, the geology of Sri Lanka is particularly of interest to us. The current number includes several interesting papers among which may be mentioned the oceanography in Sri Lanka by Shanti Wickremaratne, and the development of Geosciences in Sri Lanka by P. G. Cooray. The account of the groundwater resources of Sri Lanka, should prove to be of interest to those working on similar hard-rock terrain in Peninsular India.

The frequency of this publication is stated to be once a year and the subscription is Rs. 250/- to institutions and non-members. The success of the Journal will depend on the regularity with which it will be issued and on the publication of articles which will interest readers beyond the border. We have no doubt that the experienced editors in charge of the journal will steer it through successfully during the formative years. We welcome the journal and look forward to its growth and popularity.

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