rare historical account of the difficulties of conducting scientific research in a non-western society.

For the person with an exclusive interest in polar sciences, the book has little of direct relevance, with the exception of the particular examples of worldwide remote-sensing activities mentioned above. However, as the philosophy of the book can be easily transferred to many problems in polar areas, it is a suitable candidate for the bookshelf of anyone with interests in regional studies. (Kelvin J. Michael, Antarctic CRC, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.)

LABRADOR ODYSSEY: THE JOURNAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELIOT CURWEN ON THE SECOND VOYAGE OF WILFRED GRENFELL. Ronald Rompkey (Editor). 1996. Montreal, Kingston, London, and Buffalo: McGill–Queen's University Press. xxxiii + 231 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-1366-3. £18.00.

The work of the Grenfell Mission to the Labrador coast is well known, as are the details of the life of its founder and motivating force, Wilfred Grenfell. The Mission started in 1892 as a result of the parlous state of the physical and spiritual welfare of the approximately 25,000 fishermen and their families who worked on the coast during the summer. After a reconnaissance the year before, the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, which operated primarily in the North Sea, sent *Albert*, a 155-ton hospital ship, to cruise the coast with the aim of ameliorating their condition. Grenfell was superintendent of the Mission, and as a result of his experience, he decided to devote all his efforts to the cause. Following the 1892 voyage, Grenfell received support for the construction of two hospitals, at Battle Harbour and Indian Harbour, and for a further voyage in 1893.

For that voyage there were to be two nurses and two doctors, Alfred Bobardt, an Australian, and Eliot Curwen, the writer of the diaries that constitute the bulk of this book. All were evangelical Christians. Unfortunately, the Indian Harbour hospital, where Curwen was to work, was not completed until October that year, too late for occupancy, and as a result Curwen and his nurse, Sister Ada Carwardine, had to spend the summer cruising up and down the coast in *Albert*, while Grenfell himself undertook a series of short trips in the steam launch *Princess May*.

Curwen's writing was exclusively for private purposes, being a diary intended for the information of his mother, brothers, and sisters. He observed the life of the local residents carefully, be they immigrant settlers, whose lives seem to have been a constant struggle against privation; the Inuit cared for by the Moravian Mission; the Moravians themselves; or, finally, the itinerant fishermen. Curwen was indignant at the injustices that he perceived, especially that relating to the payment of people with goods by the same merchants to whom they were bound to sell their fish. He also observed the natural history of the area carefully and, very useful for the historian, was an early and very enthusiastic photographer, taking a large number of high-quality pictures that have lost none of their poignancy through the years.

Curwen only spent one year in the north. After returning to England, he went to China with the London Missionary Society. He eventually settled in Hove, Sussex, and took up archaeology, which became a consuming interest. He died in 1950.

His journal and a selection of his photographs are presented in this book, which is the third volume in the McGill–Queen's/Hannah Institute Studies in the History of Medicine, Health and Society series. The journal is printed virtually intact, with minor corrections of spellings, etc. It reveals that the writer had attitudes typical of evangelical Christians from the middle classes in the late-Victorian era. He was honest, hard-working, self-effacing, and ever-so-slightly priggish. He could also be somewhat long-winded at times. As a result, this is definitely not a book to be consumed at one reading, but rather for those with general interests in the area, to be dipped into from time to time. For the specialist, it is an important source for the history of Labrador, and of the Mission at a crucial stage in its development.

The editor has intercalated Curwen's text with letters by Grenfell and Bobardt to the Mission. These were largely intended for publication and necessarily present a rather more sanitised view of the situation. However, Grenfell occasionally gave harrowing detail concerning the conditions of life of some of the settlers, no doubt with the aim of increasing donations to the Mission.

The editor provides a full and useful introduction, and the critical apparatus is detailed. Information is given on the lives of the different people mentioned by Curwen, and much interesting background concerning the situation in Newfoundland and Labrador is set out. There are several very clear photographs and an adequate map. The book is well presented and the price is modest. (Ian R. Stone, Tartu University, Ulikooli 18, Tartu, Estonia.)

GEOLOGY AND SEISMIC STRATIGRAPHY OF THE ANTARCTIC MARGIN. Alan K. Cooper, Peter F. Barker, and Giuliano Brancolini (Editors). 1995. Washington, DC: American Geophysical Union (Antarctic Research Series 68). xiii + 303 p + atlas, illustrated, hard cover, CD-ROMs. ISBN 0-87590-884-5. $US65.00.

From time to time the American Geophysical Union publishes the results of Antarctic research in monographs or in thematic collections of papers, which are independently refereed to a high standard. Thus volumes in this series often become milestones in the evolution of Antarctic science, and this one is no exception.

The title, *Geology and seismic stratigraphy of the Antarctic margin*, may not initially indicate the importance of this work in understanding the place of Antarctica in the global system, but for many people the main interest will be in understanding the role of the Antarctic ice sheet in influencing global climate, sea level, ocean circulation, and southern-hemisphere biotic evolution. The continental margin of Antarctica has yielded, through sea-floor drilling and seismic investigations, considerable insight