

'METAMORPHIC TECTONITES OF THE HIMALAYA'. Edited by Dr. P. S. Saklani and published by M/s Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, 1981.

In recent years, Himalaya has found an important place in geological research, not only in India but even outside. As a result, research contributions on this interesting mountain chain have been continuously appearing in various national and international journals. The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, has also been publishing the proceedings of various seminars held annually as volumes of 'Himalayan Geology'.

Fourth in the series on Himalayan Geology brought out by the publishers, the present volume is supposed to deal exclusively with the metamorphic tectonites of the Himalaya. But on going through the subject matter of the different papers included in the book, one finds it rather difficult to see any correlation between the title of the book and its contents. In what way the book contains material different from the earlier volumes dealing with Tectonic Geology (Vol. 1) and Structural Geology (Vol. 2) of the Himalaya is not clear.

The sixteen odd papers deal with varied aspects including one on uranium mineralisation, a theme which even remotely does not fit in with the scope of the book. Except the last six papers, the remaining ten are routine papers identical to those published on the basis of doctoral thesis of University research scholars. There is no justification for bringing out a special volume to include such papers.

The only redeeming feature of the book is the quality of the papers No. 11 to 16, which are certainly informative and marked by mature presentations. Kumar's paper (No. 11) on the 'Metamorphism in Manali-Rohtang Pass area, N. W. Himalaya' provides a well-written and informative account of the rocks of a Himalayan terrain which has not yet been studied in detail. The author has given an unbiased description of the geology of the area, and his paper will be quite useful to workers interested in knowing the petrological and mineralogical details of the rocks of Manali-Rohtang. The paper on the 'Structure and metamorphism in Eastern Nepal' by Maruo and Kizaki of Japan (No. 12), is a good contribution to the study of Nepal Himalaya. This paper which also follows the Japanese school of thought on the structure and stratigraphy of Nepal, is quite distinct from those of others. Of course, one may not fully agree with their interpretations, their opinions are of value to all those who are interested in Nepal geology. The paper on the deformation and metamorphism of the rocks of Jakdah in eastern Himalaya by Lal, Mukerji and Ackerman (No. 13), is again a very good piece of research work, providing for the first time a well documented and illustrated account of the rocks of that part of Himalaya which remains less investigated. Sinha-Roy (No. 14), has proposed a model to explain the phenomenon of inverted metamorphism along the MCT. Saxena's paper (No. 15) on the chronology of tectonic events of the Himalaya, is more or less a review of the existing knowledge on the subject. It gives an exhaustive yet concise account of the problem, of course justifiably biased in favour of Saxena's own ideas and interpretations. Pande in his paper (No. 16) has provided a summarised account of his own concepts on the metamorphism of the 'Inner Schistose Series' of Garhwal and Kumaun.

The above listed five papers have certainly enhanced the overall value of the book, and I wish the other papers too were of comparable standard.

The introductory remarks by the editor, summarising the various papers, do not provide any continuity of thought, nor are they relevant to the title of the book. The editor, having used his privilege to choose the diverse material of varying standards, should have also seen to the quality of the maps and sketches. It would have been ideal if some uniformity of presentation was insisted upon. Illustrations on pages 2, 3 and 4 are very poor, while in the map facing page 136, one cannot make out anything.