

Acknowledgements

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Figure at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

MCINTYRE, A. K. (ed.): WATER, PLANETS, PLANTS AND PEOPLE. — Austr. Acad. Sci., Canberra City 1978. 182 pp.

As the result of a symposium held at Canberra on 29 April 1977, this small-size book discussing big problems connected with a compound which is without doubt the most significant for mankind in the whole Universe has been published. The papers included are written by distinguished scientists in a highly authoritative way.

An up-to date review of water as a compound by N. K. Fletcher is followed by a description of water distribution on and in the bodies of our solar system by E. A. Ringwood in general, and by J. R. Philip on the Earth in particular.

J. R. Robinson describes the role of water in the animal body, I. R. Cowan discusses plant-water relations focussed chiefly on photosynthesis and primary production, while W. V. Macfarlane depicts in details the water regime of some desert animals as refined examples of an extremely special solution of water-organism relationship.

Future problems of mankind with water resources are described by D. E. Weiss. A brief summing-up has been added by Sir Rutheford Robinson.

Even the reader who was not present at the Canberra symposium may — when reading the reports — have the notion of a spiritual banquet, in accordance with the original meaning of the Greek word "symposium". It is pleasant and encouraging to mingle among people who are able to see their scientific field from a wider angle of view. This has been done in this small book in an excellent way for the benefit of those who are not much familiar with the problems of water, which anyway deserve to be highly respected.

B. SLAVÍK (*Praha*)