

listing those earthquakes generally greater than magnitude 6.5 since 1900 and historic events prior to this time. Furthermore, the description of each region includes a contour map of the mean energy release in  $\text{ergs km}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$ . These tables and maps represent one of the best integrated compilations and presentations of world seismicity since Gutenberg and Richter's *Seismicity of the Earth and Associated Phenomena* in 1954.

Throughout the book, typographical errors are few and are usually not confusing, although one such error involves the apparent omission of one or several sentences in the paragraphs concerning the quantitative results of a triangulation survey in the San Francisco area (p. 53); that particular portion of the discussion is uninterpretable.

In summary, the book can be recommended to civil engineers and planners concerned with construction in regions of high seismic risk, and it will almost certainly be used in the problem of nuclear power plant siting. Statisticians will find the book useful as an introduction to specific seismic applications. For geophysicists, the book will be handy as a reference to historical seismicity and specific statistical methods. Graduate and undergraduate students in the above-mentioned disciplines will benefit by having the book in their libraries.

E.F. CHIBURIS (Groton, Conn.)

*Seminar on Geodynamics of the Himalayan Region.* Harsh. K. Gupta (Editor). National Geophysical Research Institute, India, 1973, 221 p., US \$ 8.00.

This bundle of papers reflects the actual state of affairs in India and describes new geological and geophysical data mainly from the Himalayan area. This seminar was one of the first meetings organized within the Geodynamics Project. The effort made to take stock of existing knowledge and to make recommendations for future work has its merits, certainly.

In total 21 papers on various subjects and another 18 abstracts are presented. The majority of papers (8) deal primarily with investigations on structural and stratigraphical problems from various areas throughout the Himalaya. Just a single paper is devoted to the Eastern Himalaya. This reflects the general lack of knowledge from this remote area. Two papers report on geophysical data, mainly seismic, from the Himalayan area. Another two papers, devoted to Indian palaeomagnetism and the Deccan Trap volcanism, give additional insight on the movement of the Indian plate. Three papers summarize research on geodynamic problems in regions outside the Himalaya, i.e. the Alpine—Mediterranean region, Australia and Iran. As was to be expected, a relation with Himalayan problems emerges in the latter paper only. A single paper on rock magnetism seems out of scope. The remaining five papers are status reports from various organizations engaged in

Himalayan research, results obtained so far are reported and current and future activities are described.

Topical problems seem to remain, such as the absence (A. Gansser) or presence (S.V. Srikantia) of an evident Hercynian orogenetic phase in the Himalaya. Strike-slip movements (H.M. Chaudhury) deduced from fault-plane solutions are seemingly confusing in their contrast to well-known dip-slip movements.

It is a pity that such a large part of the papers which were presented at the Seminar are given as abstracts only and that discussions are generally not included. For the general reader, the readability of the papers would have been enhanced if more maps would have been included. Some of those present are reproduced at a scale towards the limit of legibility. Basically the book is well presented, without misprints and of low cost.

This book is worthwhile for geomorphologists concerned with the Geodynamics of the Himalayan area, it is not a book for those not introduced in the subject since comprehensive compilation studies are absent.

C.T. KLOOTWIJK (Utrecht)