of observations has been completed. The first monograph on this material has been published by Dr. W. Düing, entitled *The Monsoon Regime of the Currents in the Indian Ocean.* It is hoped that it will be followed by others.

Wyrtki found an optimal solution for the hydrographic description of a whole ocean, notwithstanding that there are weak points due to the inhomogeneity of the observations. The possibility of such a deficiency was of course realized during the planning stages of the Expedition in the 1950's. A systematic grid of stations for the whole ocean as proposed by Wüst (1960, *Deep-Sea Res.* 6, 245–249) was desirable, but in the end proved unrealistic. Many expeditions from different countries cannot be co-ordinated in the same way as can a Navy, where orders can be given. Scientists wish to devote their main efforts to scientific problems, not only to routine work. Compromises had to be found combining individual interests with survey work. Whether the Expedition was satisfactory or unsatisfactory is a matter of opinion, but the writer of this article, being aware of the great number of factors involved in such an undertaking, is of the opinion that the final outcome of the International Indian Ocean Expedition is highly gratifying.

One aspect, however, is not so gratifying. One would have wished that IOC/UNESCO, the sponsor of the Expedition, had published the Atlas. This is not to say that the scientific world should not be grateful that the National Science Foundation of the United States has made this basic work on the Indian Ocean available, but the Expedition was an international effort and represented one of the largest programs ever carried out in the international field of earth sciences. As such, it was co-ordinated by IOC/UNESCO, and it should have been the task of that organization to also sponsor the publication of the Atlas, rather than leave it to national resources. To miss such an opportunity is discouraging to future international cooperation.

This does not detract from Wyrtki's work, however. The IOC/UNESCO could not have made a better decision in 1965 when they transferred the preparation of the Atlas to him, since he was experienced in handling large quantities of observed data. Wyrtki also knew how to analyze structure and circulation with sophisticated methods, and he was not afraid to spend several years on such a comprehensive work.

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200,000,000 Years Beneath The Sea. PETER BRIGGS, 1971. Price £2·50. Cassel.

IN A POPULAR style, obviously backed by thorough research into his subject matter, Peter Briggs unfolds the story of the Deep-Sea Drilling Project from its conception up to late 1970. The author's explanations of the often complex ideas or equipment behind the *Glomar Challenger's* operations are probably too simplified for the interested but uninformed earth scientist or drilling engineer but, together with many anecdotes about the people involved, should appeal to the general reader. The lack of chapter titles was annoying as was the inclusion of a number of photos and diagrams not linked to the text. None of the figures was especially drawn for the book; some carefully designed diagrams would have aided the general reader to grasp the meaning of plate tectonics, or the terminology of drilling, for instance.

Mr. Briggs ends on the note that deep-sea drilling still has a long way to go but partly because it has been so successful, maritime governments now feel it wise to stake out their claims to the adjacent ocean, with the danger that *Glomar Challenger's* invaluable global exploration may be curbed in the future. Oceanographers everywhere will hope he is wrong.

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