

tainly stand as the preeminent history of entomology in Canada. But it also provides a strong model and set of questions with which to explore, on a national scale, related disciplines that passed through similar processes of growth under state sponsorship. With its focused and convincing analysis of the dynamics of *fundamentalisation* and of the environmental contexts and consequences of science, it deserves a wide audience.

MATTHEW EVENDEN

Einar-Arne Drivenes; Harald Dag Jølle (Editors). *Norsk polarhistorie*. 3 volumes. 1,639 pp., illus., figs., bibl., index. Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, 2004. Nkr 1,295, \$206 (cloth).

This three-volume anthology is a significant contribution to the understanding of Norwegian polar history. It contains contributions from leading historians of the country, who establish a new standard of historical research and fresh perspectives on a questionable epoch in the Norwegian heritage.

The fact that Norway was once an eager colonizer of territories may come as a surprise to historians of science who are used to associating imperialism with British or French legacies. Yet this was very much the case, and Norwegian scientists played a leading role in the endeavor by lending their scientific authority to the cause. The first volume of *Norsk polarhistorie* covers various expeditions that set out to conquer polar nature in an effort to strengthen Norway's national identity and further its territorial ambitions. The most well known include Fridtjof Nansen's expedition by ship across the polar sea between 1893 and 1896 and Roald Amundsen's race to reach the South Pole before the British expedition led by Robert F. Scott in 1911. A host of less spectacular scientific voyages also testify to the importance of polar exploration to national pride.

Historians of science will probably find the second volume of the anthology especially interesting, as it deals with Norwegian scientific investigations of the Northwest Passage, Greenland, polar light, and movement of arctic ice, as well as the geography, geology, and biology of both arctic and Antarctic landscapes. It starts with a well-surveyed chapter by Geir Hestmark on the political implications of the mapping of some of these regions. In the following chapter Robert Marc Friedman continues with a lucid discussion of "Nansenism" in Norway, a peculiar ideological mix of heroism, nationalism, and scientific humanism inspired by Nansen that

came to dominate polar research in the interwar period. His account of the importance of scientific investigations into polar light for the nation-building identity of Norwegians is particularly convincing. The highlight of the volume is perhaps Einar-Arne Drivenes's chapter on the imperial ambitions of the scientist and explorer Adolf Hoel, who had lifelong aspirations to secure as much polar territory as possible for Norway. Hoel believed that national territorial expansion was ultimately an issue of the biological survival of Norwegians, a view that brought him membership in the Nazi Party and the presidency of the University of Oslo during the war. The following chapter on anthropological research, written by Harald Dag Jølle, explains how various scientists and explorers engaged with indigenous people living in the polar environments. He claims that scientists gained much of their know-how from these native inhabitants. Two chapters about postwar scientific activity, written by Friedman and Dag O. Hessen, respectively, break new ground, as few historians have studied Norwegian polar research in this period. They place this activity firmly within the Cold War era, yet show that this research field also became an arena in which individuals could break out of the East-West divide. The final volume of the anthology deals with economic history. Exploitation and scientific management of the wealth of the land was the chief end of polar research. The scientists were themselves often involved in various economic enterprises designed to strengthen both personal and national economies.

These volumes have unveiled much new material and found new perspectives on old. The Norwegian book market for scholarly literature is rather narrow. Thus the authors have done their very best to write in plain, accessible language that will appeal to a wider audience. The volumes are also unusually well illustrated. One can only hope plans for an English translation of this fine anthology will materialize.

PEDER ANKER

Eric J. Engstrom. *Clinical Psychiatry in Imperial Germany: A History of Psychiatric Practice*. (Cornell Studies in the History of Psychiatry.) xii + 295 pp., bibl., index. Ithaca, N.Y./London: Cornell University Press, 2004. \$49.95 (cloth).

Eric J. Engstrom has provided a carefully researched and nuanced study of the rise of the German university psychiatric clinic. His story begins in the mid-nineteenth century with aca-