

nearly half the book. Each city has a four page entry. The first page describes the environment of the city and how it is influenced by the major weather systems, discusses growing seasons, temperatures and precipitation. The remainder of the entry is composed of tables on normals, means and extremes, heating and cooling degree days, snowfall, temperature and precipitation. Most of the tables have years and months on the two axes.

The last section is a "Special report: climatic changes", which discusses the process of change, the carbon dioxide problem and the effect of energy technologies on climate.

There are scattered photographs of such events as

tornadoes, thunderstorms and volcanic eruptions but they are quite grainy and dark. In a few places, e. g., pages 33 and 179, the lettering on tables and graphs is so small that it is illegible. Throughout the book, temperatures are given in fahrenheit degrees and precipitation is in inches. There is a glossary and an index.

Overall this is an informative volume which provides an interesting introduction to weather and geophysical phenomena and a mass of detailed statistics for selected cities.

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### **The Guinness Book of Mountains and Mountaineering**

By Edward Pyatt. 1980. Distributed by Sterling Publishing, New York. 256 pp., illus. U.S. \$19.95.

Mountains affect people in different ways. Beautiful, exhilarating and foreboding are a few adjectives applied to mountains and they don't adequately explain the spiritual influence of mountains upon man. Edward Pyatt's book touches on these and many other aspects of mountains and their interaction with man.

The introductory 62 pages consider the definitions of a mountain, then give a synopsis of plate tectonics, volcanoes, glaciers, weather, medicine, mapping, flora and fauna, recreation, living in the mountains, etc. The main part of the book treats the mountains of the world in geographic areas, e.g., The Alps, North America. Each page has (in the left column, occupying one third of the page width) an annotated listing of the

principal mountains in the ranges found in that geographic area. For example, under Canadian mountains, we see that Mt. Waddington is also known as mystery mountain, is 3994 meters high, and was first ascended in 1936 by Weissner and House. In all, over seven pages are devoted to mountains in Canada. Mount Edith Cavell is shown in color and several other peaks are pictured in black and white.

The text emphasizes man's expeditions to conquer summits. It is nicely presented and written in a readable style. The photographs, maps and illustrations effectively complement the text. Overall it is an excellent introduction to mountains and mountaineering.

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