

Shorter Notices

Climate Change Science: Current Understandings and Uncertainties by *Steering Committee of the Climate Change Study* (Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, 1995) pp.100, ISBN 0-646-22704-1.

This book provides an excellent overview of the state of scientific knowledge about global climate change with a particular emphasis on its possible effects on Australia. Clearly written and illustrated it is a well designed volume which will be an excellent resource for anyone interested in climate change science. Each chapter addresses a different theme: the global and local nature of climate change, the time scale of climate change, links with other areas, areas of uncertainty and future research and monitoring requirements. This slim volume is worth having on your reference shelf.

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The Sale of Aussat, Report 333 by *The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia Joint Committee of Public Accounts* (Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1994), pp. xii + 35, A\$6.95, ISBN 0 644 35468 2

This report reviews an earlier report from the Auditor-General titled *The sale of Aussat and best practice for the sale of Commonwealth assets, Audit Report No. 33, 1992-93* which was tabled in Parliament on 13 May 1993. One of the aims of the Joint Committee report was to consider issues surrounding the Aussat sale such as its competitive impact and best practice in the sale of Government assets. The renewed emphasis on the privatisation of Telstra following the March 1996 federal election could make this slender volume worth reading.

Biographical Encyclopedia of Scientists, Second Edition, Volume 1 and Volume 2, compiled by *John Daintith, Sarah Mitchell, Elizabeth Tootill and Derek Gjertsen*, (Institute of Physics Publishing, Bristol and Philadelphia, 1994), pp. 1075, £ 120.00, ISBN 0 7503 0287 9 (Two-Volume Set)

This "reference book presents biographical entries on important scientists - from the earliest times to the present day". The focus of the work is on the 'traditional' pure sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy and the earth sciences. Each biographical entry emphasises the major scientific achievements of the person as opposed to a details on his/her personal life. To this end the authors have been selective about the information they include. They have presented information with the intention of producing "a book as much about science itself as about scientists". The book has six different sections: a biographical section which has some 2000 entries on scientists; a chronology section some 42 pages