

One drawback of *Limestone Geomorphology* is that it is too short to contain more than a brief description of the many types of karst landform. For classification and description of individual features, readers are still best referred to Jo Jennings's book, *Karst*, or *Karst Landforms* by Marjorie Sweeting. But Trudgill updates these 15 year old textbooks, and provides a fresh conceptual approach in summarizing the process studies and geomorphological pre-occupations of the last fifteen years.

DREW, David P.: *Karst processes and landforms*. Basingstoke, Macmillan Education. 1985. 63pp. ISBN 0 333 38361 3. Price £1.95. (reviewed by P. L. Smart)

This short book (just over 60 A5 pages with a relatively large print size) can be read without difficulty in an evening. The style is relaxed, the sectioning and layout good, and the figures bold, well-drawn, and not over-reduced (as has been the case in some other recent texts). The contents range through the major areas of karst geomorphology, including definitions of karst areas, limestone rocks, the solution process, karst landforms, and caves. In general, the text manages to balance well the explanation of basic principles with their wider application to landform development. The solution process, for example, is explained with commendable clarity, while the summary table of factors controlling limestone solution and erosion leads naturally to further questions and projects. This approach should work well, as the intended market is 'the enquiring A-level student and his teacher'. With this market in mind, the examples tend to be drawn primarily from the British Isles, although why T. D. Ford's *Limestones and Caves of Derbyshire* is not included in the further reading section is a mystery.

In fact, relatively little help is given to readers wishing to delve deeper into the more specialist literature, and more advanced students may also find the lack of development somewhat limiting. For example, the distribution of erosion on limestone coasts is discussed almost solely with reference to solutional processes, and the contribution of direct biological erosion is minimized, being covered in a single sentence unfortunately separated from the remainder of the section by another figure. Advanced students will, I am sure, be better served by the more comprehensive and better balanced account in the new text by Trudgill (which is of course also much longer).

Inevitably, there are minor criticisms: the charges are missing from the equation on p. 60, pocket valleys are mentioned as a landform in summary, Table 3, but not described in the text. The use of 'sediments' to describe the non-carbonate rocks flooring the Fatnicko polje in Figure 31 is misleading, and the differences between Figure 35(c) and (d) are rather too subtle to be comprehended by a non-specialist. I also wonder why no mention has been made of uranium series dating of cave deposits, surely one of the most interesting and significant recent developments in karst geomorphology.

Nevertheless, the next time I am approached by someone asking for a simple guide to karst geomorphology for use in schools, I will recommend this excellent overview without hesitation.