

property owner and the pressure groups striving to control the rural areas and resources, and, on the other hand, the government.

The trouble with *Rural Geography* lies in the very multiplicity of its subjects; the author has over-zealously included *ninety* subtitles with about four pages per subtitle. Such a comprehensive approach inevitably leads to a lack of depth. Further, the book centers mainly on the developed Western world. One would naturally expect a book on rural geography to deal with *any* geographical area in which a rural population predominates, including developing countries, Third World countries, and Communist countries. An analysis of the village and the problems of rural geography in these areas is regrettably lacking.

The above weaknesses notwithstanding, this book is a welcome contribution to the bookshelf of those in the field of rural geography.

*Fluvial Hydrology*. S.L. Dingman, N.Y.: W.H. Freeman & Co., 1984.

*Reviewed by: Jonathan B. Laronne*

Dingman's *Fluvial Hydrology* deals with the physics of flow in open channels and includes a chapter on flow in porous media. This book is intended for geomorphologists who have acquired university-level physics and calculus skills and is intended to take the place of several engineering textbooks; it is well-written and includes a basic reference list. Topics covered include a rather lengthy introduction dealing with dimensions, units, and significant figures; fundamentals of physical equations; and the structure and properties of water. These topics help the student understand the main subject matter of this volume: forces and classifications for open channel flows, uniform flow, the energy equation, resistance and sediment transport, gradually and rapidly varied flow, gradually varied unsteady flow, and flow in porous media.

Dingman's contention that his book will provide all necessary information on this topic is justified for most geomorphologists. All the major relevant aspects of fluid mechanics are covered in sufficient detail, and principles as well as equations are explained at an advanced, non-engineering level. The book is well-illustrated, with the high-quality line drawings with which geomorphologists are familiar through Freeman's publication

of Leopold, Wolman, and Miller's somewhat outdated *Fluvial Processes in Geomorphology*.

*Fluvial Hydrology*, coupled with Richards' *Rivers: Form and Process in Alluvial Channels* can together serve as the best textbooks presently available for an advanced course in fluvial geomorphology. Alternately, academic programs that can offer these two subjects in different courses should base the first one entirely on Dingman's book. This text can be strongly recommended for all advanced courses in fluvial geomorphology, as well as for practicing geomorphologists. A soft-cover, less expensive edition for students would be welcome.