Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS

Adamovič, Ja. *Mikratapanimičnyja nazvy*. 'Vyšejšaja škola', Minsk, 1971. 112 pages.

Microtoponymy is the study of small non-inhabited topographical localities, such as fields, meadows, woods etc. The *raison d'être* of such a study needs no justification. For the linguist, microtoponyms are part of the lexical riches of the language, of particular interest because they usually have more in common with general vocabulary than do the names of inhabited places. They are also of considerable interest to historians, ethnographers and others because they tend to remain remarkably stable and to persist long after the locality has changed its original character (cf. in English names like 'Haymarket' or 'Shepherd's Bush' which are now right in the centre of London).

The present book by Adamovič is the first work on Byelorussian toponyms. The study is based on

material collected by the author in the south-western part of the Minsk and the neighbouring districts of the Brest provinces. The total number of the names considered is 4,800.

The book is the work of a linguist, and is mainly concerned with the ways in which the microtoponyms are formed. The author distinguishes three types of formation — semantic, morphological and syntactical — and makes an attempt to classify microtoponyms according to the word-forming stems.

At the end of the book there is a short but useful bibliography. It is a pity that the author did not provide an alphabetical index of names, thus considerably diminishing the practical usefulness of his otherwise excellent work.

A. Nadson

Aleksandrovič, S. Ch. *Puciaviny rodnaŭa slova*. *Problemy razvicia bielaruskaj litaratury i druku druhoj pałovy XIX — pačatku XX stahodździa*. BDU, Minsk, 1971. 248 pages.

Byelorussian literature in the 19th and early 20th centuries has been the subject of extensive study and research during recent years. The same cannot be said of Byelorussian printing and its role in the development of literature. The present book by Aleksandrovič is the first serious work on the subject. It covers the period from 1860 to 1917.

The first chapter (pp. 5-125) deals with the development of Byelorussian printing from 1860 to 1904. This period, which began with the emancipation of peasants in 1861 and the anti-Russian uprising in 1863, was marked by the suppression of all free political expression and the intensification of the policy of russification by the autho-

rities. There was no question of any open Byelorussian national activity. Whilst not permitting Byelorussians to publish anything in their native tongue, however, the Russian authorities themselves made use of the Byelorussian language in publications destined for the peasants in an attempt to win their support. A number of such publications appeared in the early 1860s. The practice was soon abandoned since it failed to produce the required results, but was revived for a short period in 1906. Aleksandrovič gives a short account of these officially inspired publications, as well as similar works emanating from Polish political circles. He begins his survey of Byelorussian printing