than half of the total number of Cyrillic publications in Byelorussia during the initial period of the development of printing in that country up to the middle of the 17th century. The fact that the books are described from first-hand knowledge, many of them for the first time in this way, enhances considerably the value and

authority of the whole work. Last but not least one should mention the exceedingly high standard of bibliographical description which has been established by Luk'janenko in her *Katalog* and which can be ignored by all future Byelorussian bibliographers only at their own risk.

A. Nadson

Mayo, P. J. *A Grammar of Byelorussian*. Anglo-Byelorussian Society in association with the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, 1976. 66 pages. Bibliography.

Byelorussian used to be one of the Slavonic languages most neglected by philologists. In recent years there has been a tendency to redress the balance. A great deal of extremely valuable work has appeared, the majority of it produced by Byelorussian scholars themselves. Comparatively little has been written about this language in English. The first, and for long the best general description of it was that given by Professor R. G. A. de Bray in his monumental *Guide to the Slavonic Languages* (London, 1951; rev. ed. 1969). A new and more detailed work has long been needed. Mayo's *Grammar* provides a most welcome remedy to the situation. It is a short book and it limits itself to one, clearly-defined aim: to provide a reference book for those wishing to acquire a passive knowledge of the language. It is a measure of its excellence that it succeeds not only in this, but also in providing an invaluable aid to anyone involved in the teaching or studying of Byelorussian, whether it be at a very elementary level or at a more advanced stage.

It deals exclusively with the modern

language. Comparisons with Russian and Ukrainian are made, where appropriate, in order to establish Byelorussian's relationship to these other members of the East Slavonic group of languages. In this respect it is of particular use to students of comparative Slavonic philology. There is an informative introductory section (pp. I-II) on pronunciation and orthography. One of the great virtues of this work is that, despite its extremely concise nature, it never contents itself with the formulation of general rules. It is meticulous in noting exceptions to the rule. This detailed and orderly approach makes it possible for the author to give an admirably lucid exposition of the use of prothetic (or, as he prefers, prosthetic) consonants. The main body of the book is devoted to morphology. The material is clearly set out. Paradigms are supplemented by notes which discuss individual grammatical endings and provide further phonological information. The bibliography provides a comprehensive guide to works on modern Byelorussian, including dictionaries, in Byelorussian, Russian and English.

S. Akiner

Wexler, P. N. *Purism and Language: a study in modern Ukrainian and Belorussian nationalism (1840-1967)*. Indiana University, Bloomington (USA), 1974. 446 pages. Bibliography.

Any review of this book should certainly begin with a clear statement of the admiration that readers will undoubtedly feel for Dr. Wexler's erudition as reflected in the scope of his subject and the extent of his reading. Whatever individual shortcomings may be found cannot detract from the fact that the book is likely to become a classic in the thorny field of 'language planning' studies.

The analysis of the development of

the Ukrainian literary language follows Shevelov's periodization, starting at 1840 and taking Ševčenko as the first major writer; the analysis of the development of Byelorussian starts in 1890. The opening chapters deal with general matters of approach to the problem, the gathering of primary data on linguistic prescription, and the establishment of terminology. Wexler examines degrees of 'openness' and 'closure' (to external