

GEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTES AND SKETCHES by P.J. Cooray, Special Publication No.2, Geological Society of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, (1997), 111p.

This publication is based on a collection of field notes and sketches by Prof. P.G. Cooray, a doyen of Precambrian Geology of Sri Lanka, during his immense experience in field geology spanning over more than half a century. The book drives home the importance of making proper sketches and diagrams of field features while carrying out field work, which of late is fast becoming a neglected art. Modern advancements in photography like the preparation of colour slides or videography in the field and their impressive display during conferences and meetings at headquarters have overshadowed the significance of hand sketches and diagrams in our field notes. The relevance of taking down proper notes and drawing field sketches needs no special emphasis, particularly while training the young students of geology who are being initiated into field work, which should be inculcated as a routine habit. Often, an experienced field geologist finds himself in a predicament when he realises that the features which he had photographed in the field could not be reproduced due to bad quality of exposure or total failure of the camera due to improper film transport etc. and alas, he cannot make a trip again for the same purpose! He is saved of a great bother if he had not ignored meticulous sketching of what he wanted to display.

The book contains impressive sketches ranging from panoramic views of regional structures, three dimensional diagrams, mesoscopic folds to outcrop-scale inter-relationships that are frequently encountered in migmatitic and charnockitic country. The complex intrusional history in Peninsular Gneiss and granites as well as intersecting dyke rocks very commonly noticed in our Precambrian terrains is well illustrated in simple diagrams. The book serves as a useful guide to the beginners in general and those of Sri Lanka in particular to get an insight into Sri Lankan geology. The notes, sketches and diagrams are reproduced in the book without editing which has helped in retaining the originality of the subject. The publication of this volume by the Geological Society of Sri Lanka is a refreshing and welcome effort.

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GROUND WATER (1998) by S. Ramakrishnan, Published by S. Ramakrishnan, Chennai 600 041, 761p, Price: Rs.230/-

This book by S. Ramakrishnan, a highly experienced hydrogeologist, is an ambitious venture covering almost all facets of groundwater hydrology.

Chapter 1 and 2 deal with general aspects of hydrogeology, such as occurrence of groundwater in various rock formations and their water-bearing properties. Chapter 3 gives a general description of remote sensing techniques with a brief note on their application in geological sciences. Chapter 4 to 6 deal with geological and geophysical methods used in groundwater exploration, types of wells and bore hole geophysics. Chapter 7 to 10 are devoted to specific aspects of well construction such as design, constructional methods and development of tubewells. Some useful details and practical solutions are given, which water well designers would find useful.

Chapter 11 describes various types of pumps used for lifting water from wells and a few examples on how to select pumps of proper capacities. Chapter 12 gives a detailed account of various techniques used in measuring water flow rates along with several useful conversion tables.