



The Sexes.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Physical Anthropology

HUMAN BIOLOGY IN OCEANIA, Vol. 1, No. 1. 78 pp., map, tables, bibliogr. Sydney: Univ. of Sydney, 1971. \$A 7.50 p.a. (US\$8.50)

The appearance of this journal testifies to the vigour of the human sciences in Australasia. With the establishment of the Department of Anthropology in the University of Sydney in 1926, a vehicle for publication of the results of fieldwork carried out from that Department soon became necessary, and the first volume of the quarterly journal *Oceania* appeared in 1930-31. During its first twenty-one years, though most of the articles were on cultural and social anthropology, some concerned physical anthropology, for example that by Campbell, Gray and Hackett on the aborigines of central Australia; and from 1951 onwards these began to increase in number, embracing osteology, measurements of living populations, blood groups and dermatoglyphics. To accommodate them a second journal *Archaeology and physical anthropology in Oceania* appeared in 1966. A similar problem again arose, for papers submitted dealing with human biology threatened to displace those on archaeology. Hence the third journal entitled *Human biology in Oceania* was conceived, and its first number appeared in February 1971. Professor Elkin, so long associated with *Oceania*, remains as managing Editor, the scientific editor is Professor R. J. Walsh, and his associate is Professor C. B. Kerr, supported by a distinguished advisory board.

The first issue contains four papers of distinction. Sir MacFarlane Burnett reviews the story of Kuru, stressing the main findings yet provoking thought and suggesting several new experimental approaches. Norma McArthur examines the dramatic recent change in birth rate of the Indian population of Fiji, which strongly contrasts with the situation among Fijians. Then there are two population genetic studies, making up two-thirds of the issue, the first by Simmons and Graydon giving blood group frequencies for samples of aborigines in various localities in the northern territory of Australia, and summarising for reference earlier studies of these populations. The second, by Kirk and his colleagues, gives data on haptoglobins, transferrins, and red cell enzyme types, again from various localities in northern Australia.

From the activity and energy our colleagues working in that region have so far shown, it seems highly likely that there will be a sufficient flow of material to maintain the new journal without detriment to journals elsewhere, in which articles from Australasia have been and will continue to be much appreciated. All good wishes go to the new venture.

D. F. ROBERTS

FULLER, WATSON (ed.). *The social impact of modern biology*. viii, 254 pp., illus., bibliogr.

London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1971.

£1.00 (cloth); 50p (paper)

This book, the record of an international conference organised by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, should be read by two groups: those who are really concerned with the social impact of science, and the younger radicals who assert that they are. The latter might find much to criticise, for this symposium again demonstrates that most scientists are better at expounding advances in their fields than in confronting the wider social repercussions which these trigger. They would also find much to learn. Fully half the book comprises a good summary of recent developments in molecular and human genetics, reproductive biology, immunology, cancer research, and agricultural botany—thus reaffirming that rational discourse can best proceed when there is common understanding of the dimensions of the problem.

Refreshingly, most participants avoid the penitent tone now common to many American scientists who have suddenly 'gotten religion' (or 'relevance') when confronted by a disruptive gang of students; most are serious, mature men groping for basic solutions to complex problems. It is no great criticism to conclude, as Wilkins's essay here does, that few new ideas about the value of science emerged. One can only commend their attempt, and resolve to join the quest.

ROBERT B. ECKHARDT

CARR, DONALD E. *The sexes*. xi, 252 pp., bibliogr. London: Heinemann, 1971. £1.80

Mr Carr is a research chemist who in this book attempts to cover all aspects of sexual mating, from microbes, through worms and spiders, to man. It is popularisation in the Desmond Morris, Robert Ardrey tradition and, like their books, is stimulating, often amusing, and frequently outrageous. There is much interesting information, particularly on

the incredible patterns of animal and plant reproduction (the descriptions of lichens, pp. 133 sqq., and gardening ants, pp. 150 sqq. are especially intriguing). We are told, among other things, that Pope Gregory XIV did not excommunicate those who procured abortions up to forty days after conception (p. 210); that mongolism is likely to be encouraged by the use of the rhythm method (p. 123); that chimpanzees observe menstrual taboos (p. 105); that male sperm is soon likely to be unnecessary for the fertilisation of human females (p. x). But unfortunately we cannot check these and other interesting suggestions, since, despite a useful list of books used, there are no footnote references. At times the writing is fairly technical, but the author tries to lighten this by slang and similes. Thus, typically, when describing evolution, we are told that 'old genes that have been falling asleep at the executive desk find themselves replaced with new genes . . .' (p. 7). There is an engaging sense of urgency; the author is crusading for ecological balance, population control etc. and has some withering remarks to make about the complete inadequacy of family-planning campaigns. Academic readers would be advised to consult Paul Erlich's very important *Population, resources, environment* (1970) which covers much of the same ground in a more thorough manner. But anthropologists can certainly learn a great deal from even such introductory accounts of how the other 99.99 per cent. of the species inhabiting the earth carry on their sexual life.

ALAN MACFARLANE

CHANCE, MICHAEL R. A. & CLIFFORD J. JOLLY. *Social groups of monkeys, apes and men*. 224 pp. plates, diags., bibliogr. London: Jonathan Cape, 1970. £2.75.

Perhaps not since the days of Darwin has man's scientific attention been so centred on his nearest relatives, the primates, as during the last decade. The emphasis is on behaviour now and the stage seems to be set for a renewed scientific battle. Anthropologists, psychiatrists and philosophers are groping for the origins of human behaviour and culture; the natural sciences, led by biology, are pushing their way towards the study of man himself—and inevitably the twain shall meet. Shall we be able to forge a new synthesis of the exact and the intuitive sciences?

The present book offers in small compass an elegant survey of field studies, showing both the facts and the gaps in our knowledge of behaviour of primates in the wild. The book also presents a tentative theoretical framework for the interpretation of primate behaviour. In both respects it may prove a valuable guide for present and future fieldworkers.

The theoretical considerations may pro-

voke much thought and discussion. The comparison with rodent behaviour is intriguing. The concept of attention structure, first introduced by the senior author in 1967, will no doubt prove a valuable tool in the analysis of primate and human behaviour. Attention behaviour may well have become emancipated from the original underlying drives in higher vertebrates including man. On the other hand, the interpretation by the authors of subordinate and other behaviour as the result of attention to the dominant animal (pp. 172–5) is unsatisfactory. It is difficult to see how subordination can occur without at least initial intimidation by the other animal (p. 175). In fact, the authors seem not to have quite made up their minds whether it is the attention structure or the *agonistic* drives which are responsible for the existence of dominance relationships.

The authors often interpret behaviour patterns in terms of adaptation to group survival rather than individual survival. It may be tempting to do so particularly when dealing with humans and primates. However, as G. C. Williams has convincingly shown, interpretations in terms of individual survival, if possible, are more parsimonious. For several of the examples offered by the authors such interpretations may be suggested.

K. KORTMULDER

Archaeology

BRAY, WARWICK & DAVID TRUMP. *A dictionary of archaeology*. 269 pp. front., illus., maps, diags. London: Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, 1970. £2.25.

Bray and Trump have written a dictionary of convenient size on world archaeology which excludes only Classical, Medieval and industrial archaeology terms. In their foreword, they explicitly state their limits of format, and it is within these that this book is considered. Most of the over 1600 definitions are concisely written, but in specific areas clarity within and between the extensively cross-referenced entries could be improved. This is particularly important because the dictionary's greatest value, with its liberal use of illustrations, lies in its usefulness to students of further education. Improvement is needed most in terms related to the general areas of scientific methods and the palaeolithic and Pleistocene.

In the important peripheral field of scientific techniques applicable to archaeology, some entries are inadequate while others are erroneous. Among the latter are 'fluorine test', 'thermoluminescence' and 'X-ray fluorescence'. The fluorine test of bone is based on the replacement by fluorine of the hydroxyl-group, *not* calcium, in the con-