

Book Reviews

Contributions to the anthropology of the Soviet Union. (Publ. 3947.) Henry Field. (Compiler.) Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1948. Pp. vii + 244. (Illustrated.) \$2.00.

This volume, which is a compilation of recent Soviet data pertaining to the archaeology and physical anthropology of the USSR, is certainly the most comprehensive and ambitious of Dr. Field's long and very impressive list of valuable publications dealing with the study of man in the lands administered by the Russians. Dr. Field acquired the bulk of his material in Moscow and Leningrad during June and July, 1945, when he was a delegate to the Jubilee Session celebrating the 220th anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR by Peter the Great. These meetings, known as the All-Union Conference on Archaeology, were attended by a total of 156 delegates. In chapter I, Dr. Field has ably summarized the scope and significance of the most important papers presented at this conference. Collectively, these reveal that Soviet scientists are now prepared to admit without reservation the fact that archaeological investigations in the USSR during the past twenty-five years have contributed a wealth of new and important material bearing on the problem of the origin of the Slavs and the development of humanity from Palaeolithic times to the Middle Ages.

V. V. Bunak, who prepared chapter II, has included brief accounts of the fossil human remains found at Teshik-Tash, Southern Bukhara, and Kiik-Koba, Crimea, as well as some general comments regarding current research on skeletal material from various sections of the USSR, racial studies in Siberia and the Caucasus, and investigations of a joint anthropological-medical nature on growth changes in the human body. Chapters III and IV are devoted entirely to archaeology, the former being a translation of a paper by P. P. Efimenko and N. A. Beregovaia published in 1941 on "Palaeolithic Sites in the USSR." It presents a comprehensive summary of some 304 Palaeolithic localities in European Russia and Siberia based on the data available during 1938; however, all bibliographic references have been deleted from the translation. Under the heading "Miscellanea Archaeologia," the title of chapter IV, Dr. Field has assembled a series of items of archaeological interest from the Ukraine, Crimea, Black Sea coast, Caucasus, Armenia, Don region, Volga region, Urals, Russian Turkestan, and Siberia. In many instances these supplement notes were previously published by the author on the same general subject.

More than one-half of the book (total: 131 pages) consists of a series of studies based on the results obtained by Soviet physical anthropologists, together with observations recorded by Dr. Field himself in the Soviet Union during September and October, 1934. The most important of these studies, which are grouped under the

general heading "Miscellanea Anthropologia" (chapter V), concern the peoples of the Western Pamirs, the Mountain Tajiks, the peoples of Uzbekistan, the Kazakhs, the Turkomans, and the Turkish peoples of the USSR. Other sections of this chapter are devoted to a description of the so-called Tardenoisian skeleton from Fatma Koba, Crimea, a summary of the palaeo-anthropology of the Lower Volga area (third millenium B. C. to the third century A. D.), the results of various craniological studies, including 14th and 15th century Tartars, Kalmyks, Ulchi, Yakuts, Orochis, and Aleuts, as well as short discussions on the origin of the Mongols and Eskimos, and blood groups in the Caucasus and of the Turkomans. The extraordinary range and wealth of material presented here testifies to Dr. Field's broad understanding of racial problems, particularly those bearing on Asia. All American anthropologists will await with interest the forthcoming publication of his *Contributions to the anthropology of the Caucasus*. In the meantime, the Smithsonian Institution is to be congratulated for bringing out the present volume, and commended for the excellence of the format employed. This is a book which no student of either Old World prehistoric archaeology or physical anthropology can afford to be without.

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Readings in the history of psychology. Wayne Dennis. (Ed.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1948. Pp. xi + 587. \$4.75.

This is the first such volume of selected readings, all presented in the English language, to appear since 1912. It is timely in that psychology has changed much in the last forty years. The compiler has chosen 61 classics that are based mostly on investigation and experimentation. Articles are reprinted in full; monographs and books are represented by excerpts. The arrangement is chronological by date of publication, and full bibliographical data are given. Some readings are as short as one or two pages; none exceeds eighteen.

There are two readings from Aristotle; all the others date from the 17th century or later; half are more recent than Wundt's founding of experimental psychology in 1879. Thirty are 19th century and eighteen 20th century contributions, the latest by C. L. Hull in 1930. Two to four selections are made from the works of some of the outstanding figures in the history of psychology—for example, Thomas Young, E. H. Weber, Helmholtz, Galton, Cattell, Thorndike, Köhler, Lashley, and Binet and Simon. Such emphasis seems appropriate in assembling scientific material from a total of 46 contributors to the more immediate background of modern psychology as usually taught in American colleges and universities.

In arriving at his final selection, the compiler, on the basis of his own teaching experience, first drew up a list of 48 titles, which he submitted to a group of 14 psychologists for criticism and suggestions on serious omissions. The final list of 61 choices represents his attempt at a balance between the wealth of material and the space available in one volume. He frankly admits that "... many important contributions to psychology could not be included." Although some who teach psychology will doubtless discover regrettable omissions, they will, on the other hand, probably find here much if not most of what they would wish to have conveniently available to their elementary students. Historical classics in scientific literature become increasingly rare and original texts suffer from exposure to the wear and tear of reading by large classes. It is important that worthy classics should be reprinted in accessible form and the compiler and publisher have made a real contribution toward this end. The volume has a good index for names, but unfortunately has none for psychological topics. It has been planned more for supplementary use in course teaching than for individual study in working up the background of special fields and subjects in psychology. A bibliography of texts and articles on the history of psychology might appropriately have been included; however, general students of this modern scientific subject will benefit from the well-arranged compilation.

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Aufgabe der Psychologie: Eine Geschichte ihrer Probleme.

(The Task of Psychology: A History of its Problems.)

Paul v. Schiller. Vienna, Austria: Springer-Verlag, 1948. Pp. 233. \$4.00.

This book is an enlarged and revised translation of a Hungarian original published in 1940 by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. It endeavors to reestablish the unity of psychology by pointing out its historical centering about the concept of action (*Handlung*), with its prime emphasis on overt behavior and adjustment to environment rather than on the introspective aspect of human responses. The latter aspect is seen as subordinate to the former, somewhat in the manner of the American functionalists and of Bühler. Ancient and medieval writers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas receive more than their usual share of attention, and with them the philosophical issues tied in with the history of psychology. The originality of the author is at its best in these chapters.

Much of the presentation of modern American writers, primarily such "molar behaviorists" as Tolman and Lashley, is obviously meant to be informative on a relatively elementary level and adapted to the needs of the author's Hungarian students—whose only practicable access to the type of foreign literature involved may well have been this book. After a discussion of psychoanalysis, behaviorism, *Gestalt* psychology and some of the older psychological systems, the author concludes with a gen-

eral discussion of the role of psychological needs and motivation in the framework of action.

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Storia naturale del sesso. Emanuele Padoa. Turin, Italy: Giulio Einaudi, 1948. Pp. 560. (Illustrated.) 2100 lire.

This book on the biology of sex, written during the war under very difficult conditions, is one of the most remarkable biological works that have come out in Italy during these years. Dr. Padoa, professor of biology at the University of Siena, has worked for many years in these problems and has contributed some fundamental researches to the problem of sex biology. He has done an excellent job in presenting here in a clear and simple way problems that are sometimes made very complex. One of the book's most outstanding features is its wealth of information; the reader finds here all the most interesting data on sex biology in plants and animals, always interpreted by the use of modern genetics. Problems of genetics of sex, cytogenetics, physiology of reproduction, phenotypic and genotypic sex determination, chemistry of sex hormones in vertebrates, experimental sex reversal, and sex evolution are all discussed.

To examine the subjects discussed in the chapter on genetic determination of sex, for example, there are sections on genetic determination of diplotes, crossing of a heterozygote with a recessive homozygote, numerical ratio of sex, sex in identical twins, sex chromosomes, inheritance of characters linked to sex (man, *Drosophila*, cat, *Melandrium*, chicken, butterflies), equilibrium of sex genes, genetic distribution in the gametophytes of the aploidiplonts, determination of sex with zygotic reduction, sex in hermaphrodites, and sterility in plants and animals. All the other nine chapters of the book provide just as thorough treatment of their subjects.

Another interesting feature of the book is its reporting of research on sex biology done in Europe during the war years and not yet well known in the United States—for example, the works of Hartmann and his school in Germany, on the physiology of reproduction in the echinoderms, and findings in the same field at the Zoological Station of Naples during the war years.

In spite of the vast amount of material, the real problem is never lost in details, but always emerges clear and vivid.

At the end of each chapter there are references to review articles and other collateral material, besides the references to original literature for those who wish to go more deeply into a particular subject.

This book may be well recommended both to biologists who want to keep informed of new problems and to students who want to become acquainted with this part of modern biology.

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