

Book Reviews

Ultrasonics. P. Vigoureux. New York: Wiley, 1951. 163 pp. \$4.00.

Dr. Vigoureux has written a short but authoritative monograph which will be useful as an introduction to the field of ultrasonics. The book is distinguished by the emphasis given to basic research since 1946 and on this account especially will commend itself to workers in the field.

The experimental methods section of the book is particularly complete. The pulse technique for measuring the velocity and attenuation of sound is described as some length. Although the author discusses ultrasonic propagation in liquids and gases, he does not include a chapter on solids, so that the important application of the pulse technique to the measurement of the elastic constants of single crystals is not treated. On the same account, the beautiful studies of Mason and McSkimin on transmission in polycrystalline solids are not mentioned.

It is satisfying that L. Hall's theory of the excess absorption in water as caused by molecular rearrangement under pressure has so quickly found its way into a textbook, as this theory considerably clarifies a central problem in the field. In discussing propagation in liquid helium II, it is unfortunate that Vigoureux refers to the phenomenon of second sound as "thermal waves," as this carries an erroneous connotation.

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Life in a Mexican Village: Tepoztlán Restudied.

Oscar Lewis. Urbana, Ill.: Univ. Illinois Press, 1951. 512 pp. \$7.50.

Seventeen years after the anthropologist Robert Redfield gave us his classic work *Tepoztlán—A Mexican Village*, Oscar Lewis, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois, decided to go to Tepoztlán and take a second look. This covered a period of approximately two years, and his book is the result of his intensive study of the village—its history, institutions, and people.

What had happened in Tepoztlán in the 17 years since Redfield made his study? How profound were the changes? How had the native institutions been affected? To what extent had the villagers become incorporated into the main stream of national life? In short, had the people and their way of life, really changed? These and many other questions were posed by Dr. Lewis—questions of more than local interest because the changes that had occurred in Tepoztlán were symptomatic of the changes all over Mexico and the world.

This new study employed a combination of anthropological, sociological, and psychological research tools—participant-observer interviews, autobiogra-

phies, case studies, surveys, and the Rorschach, Thematic Apperception, Grace Arthur Performance Scale, and other psychological tests. Carefully selected families, belonging to the various socioeconomic levels of the village, were intensively studied. The studies were not included in this volume for lack of space, but the material was used in the interpretations of interpersonal relations.

The book is organized into two parts: Part I, "The Village and its Institutions," and Part II, "The People." Part I provides the reader with a broad frame of reference for the understanding and interpretation of much of the psychological data contained in Part II. Throughout, there is an attempt to understand Tepoztecan culture as a whole, as an integrated way of life, and as part of the larger Mexican scene.

In "The People," Lewis does not try to fit his data into any one of the popular formulations in the culture-personality field, but has chosen to limit himself to a description of the quality of interpersonal relations. This material represents the most complete published description of interpersonal relations for a Latin-American peasant community.

How do the findings of this study differ from the earlier work of Redfield? In his summary, the author describes some of the differences by saying:

When this study was begun I did not anticipate that there would be any fundamental differences between our findings. In the course of the work, however, many differences did emerge, ranging from discrepancies in factual details to differences in the over-all view of Tepoztecan society and its people. . . . Redfield's picture of the village has a Rousseauian quality which glosses lightly over evidence of violence, disruption, cruelty. . . . We are told little of poverty, economic problems or political schisms. Throughout his study we find an emphasis upon the cooperative and unifying aspects of Tepoztecan society. Our findings, on the other hand, would emphasize the underlying individualism of Tepoztecan institutions and character, the lack of cooperation, the tensions between villages within the municipio . . . and the prevailing quality of fear, envy and distrust in inter-personal relations.

The last chapter examines these differences in more detail and attempts to explain them.

The Lewis study is an exciting contribution to the knowledge of the fundamental processes and principles of culture change in Indian villages. As Robert Redfield says about this book:

Dr. Lewis has written an account of a Mexican people that is rich in fact and provocative in ideas, because he ably presents this people as existent institutions, as histories and as personalities, bringing these aspects of the reality into illuminating interrelationships. . . .

The volume is beautifully presented, and Beltran's fine drawings well illustrate it.

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