

# Book Reviews

*An Introduction to Anthropology.* Ralph L. Beals and Harry Hoiyer, with collab. of Virginia M. Roediger. New York: Macmillan, 1953. 658 pp. Illus. \$6.00.

This book is a rare event in the publication of English-language general anthropology texts: not only is it the fruit of joint authorship of the most intensive kind but it is also profusely illustrated with line drawings that, in the authors' words, "set a new standard for the illustration of anthropological textbooks." The body of facts and theories in each of the divisions of anthropology has become so great that it is hazardous for one person to attempt writing about them all; yet anthropologists have made few attempts at joint authorship of introductory texts, although such are clearly needed. Beals and Hoiyer have succeeded admirably, indeed uniquely, in their collaboration; the style is uniform, examples are eclectically chosen, and the special interests of neither are revealed in most of the chapters, the exceptions properly being instances in which the subject of a chapter coincides with the major interest of one of the authors, e.g., Hoiyer and language, Beals and acculturation. Dr. Roediger, who did the illustrations, has great skill in suppressing extraneous detail and this, combined with her close collaboration with the authors, has resulted in a series of pointed and illuminating figures and maps.

About a third of the book is devoted to human paleontology and physical anthropology, the remainder to cultural anthropology. The former portion contains a strong emphasis on genetics, but the lack of extensive and detailed knowledge of gene geography for humans prevents the authors from presenting a racial classification in other than the conventional phenotype terms. A closer and more convincing connection could have been established between genetics, fossil man, and racial varieties by more explicit reference to genetic processes such as genetic drift and to ecological phenomena that bear on evolution, speciation, and race formation. It would help greatly in dispelling the tendency among students to think teleologically on these matters.

The majority of the chapters treating cultural anthropology follow a conventional arrangement: technology, subsistence techniques, economics, social and political organization, religion, language, the arts, and education. The authors have chosen to emphasize structural and functional approaches in dealing with these topics, rather than the historical, and in so doing reflect a major current in contemporary American anthropology. This emphasis is carried to the degree that prehistory gets very short shrift as a separate topic, although some measure of historical perspective is restored in the chapters on technology, clothing and ornament, etc., by anchoring them in the findings of prehistoric archaeology. The ethnographic examples are presented entirely in the present tense—a conven-

tion in anthropology that facilitates comparative studies but one that merits reconsideration if it is to be used in a textbook. Students can be convinced of the utility of this practice for certain studies but rightly question its employment when referring to the buffalo-hunting Crow Indians.

It is a handsome and meaty book, adaptable to several teaching methods. Each chapter is subdivided into captioned sections, and these captions appear in the table of contents. The index is thorough and workable.

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*The Chemistry of Synthetic Dyes*, Vols. I and II. K. Venkataraman. New York: Academic Press, 1952. 1442 pp. Illus. \$29.00 for set of 2 vols.

This two-volume work on synthetic dyes presents a very thorough survey of all the recognized dyes in the classical accepted order which starts with nitroso and terminates with cyanuric and miscellaneous types. Each class of dye is thoroughly discussed with respect to methods of synthesis, application, and reactions. In addition, considerable space is given in the earlier and later parts of these volumes to general discussions on the raw materials and intermediates required, color measurement and description, methods of dye application, analysis of dyestuffs, action of light on dyes and fibers, and the chemical character of substantive dyes.

The text is especially well documented with literature references which are well up to date, and in many cases the discussion shows a critical evaluation of current literature with extraction of ideas and conclusions which had escaped the technical writers of the paper. Although these volumes do not provide laboratory directions for synthesis or application, the applied as well as theoretical worker will find them to be of great assistance in all problems involving the reaction or properties of synthetic dyestuffs.

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*X-Ray Crystallographic Technology.* André Guinier; trans. by T. L. Tippell; Kathleen Lonsdale, Ed. London: Hilger and Watts, 1952. (U.S. distrib.: Jarrell-Ash, Boston.) 330 pp. Illus. + plates. \$9.50.

The original book (Dunod, Paris, [1945]) was called *Radiocristallographie*,<sup>1</sup> a title obviously hard to beat. The English edition includes a foreword by Kathleen Lonsdale, who explains the *raison d'être* for the translation. The book was so excellent but so poorly put out that she felt her own copy would be frequently consulted and soon fall to pieces. Everyone will agree that the gem was worth a better setting.

<sup>1</sup> Reviewed for the *American Journal of Science* in 1946.