

## Book Reviews

**Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in the New World.** Viking Fund publications in anthropology, No. 23. Gordon R. Willey, Ed. Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York 1956. 202 pp. Illus. \$5.

Interest which grew out of the papers presented, and the ensuing discussion, in a session on "Settlements and society: a symposium in archeological inference" at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Detroit, in 1954, led to a decision to publish the original five papers and to invite additional contributions by archeologists working in other New World areas. As a result, 15 new essays were received, and they, together with the original papers, an introduction, and an appraisal of their contents by an ethnologist, provide the contents of *Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in the New World*.

The introduction states that the purpose of the essays is to place on record present knowledge about prehistoric settlement patterns in various American areas and, thus, to provide basic source material and indicate problems for future studies on the significance of such phenomena. There are four articles on various aspects of the southwestern United States; one each on California, the Great Plains, the northern Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes, the lower Mississippi Valley, the northeastern United States, the eastern United States, and the central Mexican region; two each on northern Mexico and the Guatemalan highlands; and one each on the Maya lowlands, Peru, the South American tropical forest, and the Caribbean area.

Because there are 22 authors involved and because no general outline or conditions were imposed, a number of different approaches are evident. All have the common denominator, however, of giving some consideration to the prehistoric settlement patterns, and to their possible meaning, in the area to which they pertain. Some deal mainly with that period, while others also include the early historic period, and some even the modern. Since much more work has been done through the years in some areas than in others, there is a great variation

in the data available for study and a corresponding difference in the inferences which can be drawn from them.

Some unevenness in the essays is attributable to the fact that the range of phenomena which are included is not consistent and that there is not complete agreement on the concept of settlement patterns and their place in archeology, but this is to be expected under the circumstances of the writing. The need for much more information on certain areas is clearly shown. In some cases there are interesting discussions about the relationship of the settlement pattern to ecology and to the social structure and the ceremonial organization of the people involved as well as suggestions about other phases of the community life.

The closing paper of the volume, in an appraisal of the various essays, summarizes the salient points in each and offers constructive suggestions on how the information might be made much more helpful to ethnologists and how the latter could be of more aid to the archeologists. The Wenner-Gren Foundation made a definite contribution in providing funds for the publication of this volume. Anthropologists should find much of merit in it.

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### **Die Gattungen der Rhodophyceen.**

Harald Kylin. Gleerup, Lund, Sweden, 1956. 673 pp. Illus. Cloth, SKr. 135; paper, SKr. 125.

In 1897 Adolph Engler published that volume of *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* which synopsized the three great classes of macroscopic algae and first gave to botanists a complete modern classification of them, down to the genus, in a modern language, with analytic keys and illustrations. Ever since, this has served as a basic reference in systematic algal studies. However, its shortcomings soon showed what great need there was for detailed studies of the growth, structural, and reproductive mechanisms of most genera. These studies came forward rapidly; fundamental changes in classification became accept-

able. A new edition was projected; that part dealing with the Chlorophyceae ("green algae") appeared in 1927. The depression and World War II struck; work on the "Pflanzenfamilien" and on "Das Pflanzenreich" was delayed and then stopped.

Harald Kylin of Lund, who had had a long history of accomplishment in studies on the structure and reproduction of the algae, had undertaken the most burdensome group, the Rhodophyceae ("red algae"). The manuscript was kept up to date until all hope of publication in the "Pflanzenfamilien" was gone, and then it was prepared for independent issue. Kylin's lamented death in 1949 did not deter his widow, Elsa Kylin, from finding support and a publisher, and with her editorial help and her supplementary notes, the present excellent volume is now available. It follows the general pattern of its predecessor. The introduction deals very briefly with general matters applicable to all red algae, such as cell wall and cell contents in structural and chemical aspects, but these are not exhaustively treated. Remarks on ecology and details of geographic distribution appear with the separate group descriptions. The greater part of the book is a systematic account of the subclasses, orders, families, and genera concerned. The text is entirely new and is fortified by an abundance of excellent illustrations which give a comprehensive coverage of the reproductive structures and developmental anatomy never before equaled. The dates of first description of the families and genera are given; typical species are designated. However, Kylin did not accept all the dicta of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, and of course the work, partly in type in 1954, could not be made to conform with the rules approved then and but recently published, so his "typical species" may not always qualify as the nomenclatural types, though his new families and genera, without Latin diagnoses, have appeared before the special deadline for algae.

The classification is very conservative. Most of the major changes have long since been adopted; few are new, but here, for the first time, they are all easily accessible. The 1897 counterpart of this work recognized the equivalent of only three orders; Kylin accepts ten. Fifty-six families are accepted, as compared with 24 before, and they are fundamentally regrouped, but the changes have not adequately affected the Ceramiales. This great order, with only four families but more than 250 genera, badly requires subdivision, and one regrets that Kylin, who had the breadth of knowledge, did not establish formal families among the groups he informally associates. The