

Population Council, has condensed the 500 typed pages of memoranda and transcript into 89 printed pages.

The book is divided into two parts: "Outline of present conditions"; and "Indicated lines of action." This thought-provoking survey should be required reading for every person concerned with the population problem, which the United Nations has described as having an "importance which transcends economic and social considerations. It is at the very heart of the problem of our existence."

In his summary, Osborn reviews some of the difficulties involved in getting to the heart of this dilemma: "The attempt to control mortality is becoming a major social activity all over the world. The resulting decline in deaths is bringing about rapid changes in population trends. The rate of population growth in many underdeveloped areas is now much greater than was ever experienced in European countries. In most of the others it will be so in the foreseeable future. And the population base is far larger than it ever was in Europe. Unless an effort equal to that made for the control of death is made for the control of fertility, and unless a reduction of births is achieved within a few decades, the hopes of great but underdeveloped nations for better conditions of life may prove futile, while the present standard of economically advanced nations will decline. Such a tragic failure to achieve the higher levels of living that should be possible could only bring disillusion, confusion, and the danger of resort to desperate measures."

The concern with this "central problem," voiced by the United Nations, appears to be amply justified.

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The Great Pulse. Japanese midwifery and obstetrics through the ages. Mary W. Standlee. Tuttle, Rutland, Vt., 1959. 192 pp. Illus. \$4.50.

Japan's medicine, even more than her culture, is a product of successive foreign influences which were superimposed upon the indigenous practices, adapted locally, and blended into a colorful mosaic. The art of writing was unknown in Japan before the introduction of the Chinese character in the 6th century A.D., and all knowledge of earlier ideas

had to be culled from uncertain sources and from surviving practices of the basic Shinto religion. Documentation began with the earliest medical books taken bodily from the Chinese.

Japanese obstetrical practice, however, obviously antedated the advent of the written word. As in all early cultures, Japanese women were attended in pregnancy and childbirth by untrained female relatives and neighbors or by midwives with varying degrees of skill. The tenets of Shinto make it evident that all natural female functions, such as menstruation and childbirth, were considered ritual impurities which demanded segregation of the individual. The first Chinese book used in Japan pronounced pregnancy a disease of the blood and so strengthened the taboo aspect of this condition.

According to this oldest known Chinese medical classic, the *Huang Ti Nei Ching Su Wen*, diagnosis of early pregnancy was made from the pulse. "The great pulse," the name by which this symptom was known, was taken as the title for Mary Standlee's book. In this work she describes the amalgamation of indigenous practices and beliefs with those of foreign origin. Throughout the narrative two essential points recur again and again: the wealth of persistent superstition of ancient origin that surrounds pregnancy and childbirth and the continuing employment of midwives as the chief obstetrical attendants in present-day Japan.

The book is the only Western study which deals with the complete history of Japanese obstetrics, and, as such, it is a welcome and important contribution. Unfortunately, the author admittedly is not thoroughly familiar with Oriental thought, and this deficiency is noticeable, although she acknowledges the help of experts. This lack is manifest in her treatment of the ancient basic Chinese concept of the Yin and the Yang, the universal dual force whose balance assures peace and health and whose imbalance brings disaster and disease. The author's approach to this abstract concept is oddly feminist, revealing her resentment that negative attributes are symbolized by Yin, the female half of the dual force. Although her reaction is disguised by awkward jocular expressions, it appears to indicate that she equates this cosmic force with the subordinate position of women in Japanese society. Similarly, the résumé of the legends of the Divine Age, dealing with the origin of the imperial family, is given

in a bantering manner which may be intended to lighten the tedium of dynastic history but falls short of being amusing.

Passing references to Japanese medicine also reveal a lack of knowledge of some of its fundamental elements. Although acupuncture and moxa treatment are frequently mentioned as "panaceas," the theory underlying their use is never explained. And the *Huang Ti Nei Ching Su Wen*, the oldest Chinese book on internal medicine, is referred to as "the materia medica of early Chinese civilization," although its emphasis on medicinal substances is negligible compared to that of the *Pen Ts'ao*, which is devoted exclusively to drugs.

These flaws will be disturbing mainly to those familiar with the history of the Far East, who will find the book lacking in depth. To the less critical reader, for whom it is apparently intended, it will prove interesting and informative. The material dealing with more recent events is drawn from essentially good personal observation, and is accurately presented. The illustrations are well selected and excellently reproduced.

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Mutilaciones Dentarias Prehispanicas de México y America en General. Javier Romero. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City, 1958. 326 pp. Illus.

The practice of filing the edges of the front teeth into various shapes or of ornamenting the labial surfaces of the upper front teeth with inlays of jadite, pyrite, turquoise or (rarely) gold, never had very wide acceptance among prehistoric American Indians. In the main, it was restricted to the high-culture populations of what is now Mexico, Guatemala, and British Honduras—in other words, Meso-America. From this center, elements of the practice are believed to have spread northward, up the Mississippi Valley to the region of the present city of St. Louis, and southward to what is now Ecuador, without, however, leaving traces in the intervening regions. Traces of this custom have been found, also, in the American Southwest and as far away as Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. Surprisingly, nothing of the sort has been found in Panama and Peru.

Such is the picture that Javier Romero, director of the Department of Physical Anthropology at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City, presents in this attractive and well-planned publication. For evidence, he includes a catalog of 618 teeth, of which some have not previously been described. Also, he discusses in detail such things as the classification of mutilation types and patterns; the age and geographical distribution of the specimens; the relationship of the practice to age, sex, and cranial deformity; and the significance of the practice in the social hierarchy. As the title indicates, he has not confused the picture by including discussion of a similar practice introduced in historic times by African slaves.

The summary, which is given also in English, includes the following points: 51 forms of tooth mutilation are now known; predominance of the practice in one sex or the other varies from period to period; all of the specimens were judged to be from individuals 18 years of age or older; no exclusive association between the practice and the social hierarchy has been established; the practice has been traced back to the pre-Classical period of Mexico, or to about 2800 years before the discovery of America.

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Faune de France. 62. *Coléoptères Curculionides*, vol. 3. Adolphe Hoffmann. Lechevalier, Paris, 1958. 545 pp. Illus. F. 642.

This is the third and final volume by Hoffmann on the Curculionidae of France. It deals with the following subfamilies, as listed in the *Junk Coleopterum Catalogus*: Tychiinae, Cioninae, Nanophyinae, Gymnaetrinae, Rhynchaeninae, Cryptorhynchinae, Trachodinae, Eriirhininae, Apioninae, Apoderinae, Atelabinae, and Rhynchitinae.

In this volume, as in the two preceding ones, Hoffmann does not, in many instances, follow the modern plan of arrangement of higher categories of Curculionidae. He lumps the 12 groups listed above into three subfamilies—namely, Calandrinae, Apioninae, and Rhynchitinae. To list all the nomenclatorial changes would be impractical, but a few should be called to the users' attention, such as the use of the generic name *Grypoidius* Stephens for *Grypus* Germar

(footnote, page 1425); the use of the generic name *Eteophilus* Bedel for *Dorytomus* Germar (footnote, page 1437); and the use of the generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger for *Sternochetus* Pierce. The author has either disregarded or does not know the procedures in taxonomy regarding the validity of generic names for he has ignored article 25 of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature in this otherwise well-presented work.

Keys to the tribes, genera, and species that are treated are given. This, being the final volume, contains a supplement of additions and corrections and an alphabetical index to the three volumes which includes subfamilies, tribes, subtribes, genera, subgenera, species, subspecies, varieties, and synonymies. A 38-page index to the host plants and a list of botanical families appear in this volume.

The author has undoubtedly spent much time and effort on this work, and it will indeed be of help in identifying the weevils of France.

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New Books

Aids to Bacteriology for Nurses. E. Joan Bockock and Katharine F. Armstrong. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London, 1959 (order from Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, Md.). 186 pp. \$3.

Alcoholism. The nutritional approach. Roger J. Williams. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin, 1959. 130 pp. \$2.50.

American Petroleum Refining. H. S. Bell. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., ed. 4, 1959. 547 pp. \$12.50.

Aromatic Substitution. Nitration and halogenation. P. B. D. De La Mare and J. H. Ridd. Academic Press, New York, 1959. 259 pp. \$9.

Asbestos. Its industrial applications. D. V. Rosato. Reinhold, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1959. 220 pp. \$5.75.

Carcinogenesis by Ultraviolet Light. Harold F. Blum. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, N.J., 1959. 355 pp. \$6.50.

Cell, Organism and Milieu. Dorothea Rudnick, Ed. Ronald Press, New York, 1959. 331 pp. \$8. This volume includes the contributions to the 17th symposium of the Society for the study of Development and Growth. The theme for this symposium was centered around the concept of differentiation and growth in response to a changing chemical environment. The contributions include reviews and studies of tissue differentiation as affected by the biochemical environment, muscle cell models, tissue response to hormonal milieu, growth factors operating on plant tissues, and growth and differentiation in whole organisms in relation to chemical alterations in their environment.

Chemical Engineering Economics. Chaplin Tyler and C. H. Winter, Jr. McGraw-Hill, New York, ed. 4, 1959. 212 pp. \$7.

Clinical Evaluation of New Drugs. S. O. Waife and Alvin P. Shapiro, Eds. Harper, New York, 1959. 233 pp. \$7.50. Contents: pt. 1, "Principles of drug evaluation"; and pt. 2, "Clinical trials in practice." Contributors include W. B. Bean, H. K. Beecher, K. H. Beyer, Jr., Harry F. Dowling, J. L. Gabrilove, D. J. Ingle, N. S. Kline, L. Lasagna, T. E. Machella, P. Meier, E. L. Severinghaus, A. P. Shapiro, S. O. Waife, and S. Wolf.

Connective Tissue, Thrombosis, and Atherosclerosis. Proceedings of a conference. Irvine H. Page, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1959. 326 pp. \$9.50.

Continuous Analysis of Chemical Process Systems. Sidney Siggia. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1959. 394 pp. \$8.50.

Contributions to the Theory of Games. vol. 4. A. W. Tucker and R. D. Luce, Eds. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, N.J., 1959. 460 pp.

Educating the Gifted. A book of readings. Joseph L. French, Ed. Holt, New York, 1959. 570 pp.

Electrolyte Solutions. R. A. Robinson and R. H. Stokes. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1959. 574 pp. \$11.50.

Elements of Chordate Anatomy. Charles K. Weichert. McGraw-Hill, New York, ed. 2, 1959. 511 pp. \$6.75.

An Experimental Inquiry into the Principles of Nutrition and the Digestive Process. John R. Young. Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1959. 75 pp. \$2.50.

Fluctuation Phenomena in Semi-Conductors. A. Van Der Ziel. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1959. 176 pp. \$6.50.

Hot Organic Coatings. Raymond B. Seymour. Reinhold, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1959. 243 pp. \$7.50.

Hypersonic Aerodynamics. Robert W. Truitt. Ronald Press, New York, 1959. 474 pp. \$10.

Hyperstatic Structures. An introduction to the theory of statically indeterminate structures. vol. 1. J. A. L. Matheson. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1959. 489 pp. \$15.50.

Individual Choice and Behavior. A theoretical analysis. R. Duncan Luce. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1959. 165 pp. \$5.95.

Induced Oxidation. W. P. Jorissen. Elsevier, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1959 (order from Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J.). 218 pp. \$8.75.

Liquids and Liquid Mixtures. J. S. Rowlinson. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1959. 370 pp. \$12.

Medical Biology and Etruscan Origins. Ciba Foundation symposium. G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Cecilia M. O'Connor. Little, Brown, Boston, 1959. 267 pp. \$9.50.

Modern Aspects of Electrochemistry. No. 2. J. O'M. Bockris. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1959. 426 pp. \$13.

Qualitative Analysis and Electrolytic Solutions. Edward J. King. Harcourt, Brace, New York, 1959. 662 pp. \$6.95.