

with the science and technical libraries, and with the organizational aspects of libraries of the various Soviet academies of sciences.

The book's preface announces a companion volume by Boris Gorokhoff on the abstracting and bibliographic programs of various nonlibrary information services in the Soviet Union. Together, the two volumes should answer most of the pertinent questions for the scientist concerned with Soviet libraries and documentation.

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The Customs and Religion of the Ch'iang. David Crockett Graham. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1958 (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 135, No. 1). 114 pp. Illus. + plates. \$2.

Now that China is closed to social scientists, we are constantly reminded of great gaps in our knowledge of that huge land and its diverse inhabitants. Certain areas of ignorance relate to current problems and their immediate social and political effects. Others seem more obscure and academic until the morning newspaper flashes exotic names and informs us that the center of the crisis-of-our-times is now lodged in Laos, in Tibet, or in the borderlands between China and Burma. Then there is a general shaking-of-heads and much deploring of the shameful limitations of our knowledge.

Such are the thoughts aroused by a reading of this collection of notes about one of the lesser known non-Han peoples of southwestern China. The Ch'iang are people of generally Mongoloid type who speak a Tibeto-Burman language. Those whose culture is described (primarily in its religious aspects) live in western Szech'uan. They are farmers and keepers of domesticated animals, and their clothing as well as their language immediately sets them apart from the Chinese who dwell in nearby valleys and from the other non-Han peoples, the Wa and the Chia-rung, who are their neighbors. The Ch'iang are particularly interesting because the Chinese have long asserted that the Ch'iang are descended from the peoples of Northwest China who, over 2000 years ago, were dislodged and became the fundamental population of Tibet. Graham's notes on

Ch'iang religion throw little positive light on this problem, since few resemblances are manifest between Ch'iang religion and Bon-po, the pre-Buddhist religion of Tibet (as opposed to contemporary Tibetan Bon, which is so heavily inroaded with Buddhist elements that it virtually constitutes an aberrant sect of Lamaism). Nevertheless, Graham's book suggests once again a most fascinating problem for a linguist: what light does glottochronology thrown on the question of the Ch'iang-Tibetan relationship and its time depth?

This volume does not pretend to be a complete and unified account of Ch'iang culture but pursues the author's special interest in Ch'iang religious beliefs and ceremonies. It will also be found useful because of its substantial body of Ch'iang texts which appear in phonetic renderings (in Chinese and in English). Graham is to be congratulated for making this material available, and the Smithsonian Institution is to be complimented for providing for its publication.

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Steroids. Louis F. Fieser and Mary Fieser. Reinhold, New York; Chapman and Hall, London, 1959. xvii + 945 pp. \$18.

Steroids revises and extends the Fiesers' *Natural Products Related to Phenanthrene* which, in three editions, has been the authoritative text in this field since 1936. The authors' justifications for undertaking a new edition under a different title are the expanded interest in and importance of steroid chemistry in recent years, the introduction of conformational analysis and other theoretical tools into the steroid field, and the organic chemists' need for a reliable guide to recent advances in this intricate subject. Although under the Fiesers' authorship, *Steroids* is a collaborative effort in the sense that no less than 67 outstanding steroid chemists cooperated with the authors by supplying suggestions, corrections, and unpublished advance information (this made it possible for the book to cover current literature to March 1959). The material is presented as a series of separate topics, and each topic is complete in itself, in that the topic is developed from historic to modern dates; early work is in-

terpreted in modern terms. The Fiesers' captivating and readable prose style continues to be strongly evident in the present text.

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New Books

College Physics. Robert L. Weber, Marsh W. White, Kenneth V. Manning. McGraw-Hill, New York, ed. 3, 1959. 645 pp. \$7.50.

Electrolytic Conductance. Raymond M. Fuoss and Filippo Accascina. Interscience, New York, 1959. 288 pp. \$8.

A Handbook of Colorimetric Chemical Analytical Methods. Tintometer Ltd., Salisbury, England, 1959. 30s.

International Review of Cytology. vol. 8. G. H. Bourne and J. F. Danielli, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1959. 551 pp. \$13. Contents: "The structure of cytoplasm," "Wall organization in plant cells," "Submicroscopic morphology of the synapse," "The cell surface of *Paramecium*," "The mammalian reticulocyte," "The physiology of chromatophores," "The fibrous components of connective tissue with special reference to the elastic fiber," "Experimental heterotopic ossification," "A survey of metabolic studies on isolated mammalian nuclei," "Trace elements in cellular function," "Osmotic properties of living cells," "Sodium and potassium movements in nerve, muscle, and red cells," and "Pinocytosis."

International Review of Neurobiology. vol. 1. Carl C. Pfeiffer and John R. Smythies, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1959. 395 pp. \$10.

An Introduction to Electronic Data Processing. Roger Nett and Stanley A. Hetzler. Free Press, Glencoe, Ill., 1959. 287 pp. \$6.75.

Kinematic Analysis of Mechanisms. Joseph Edward Shigley. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1959. 361 pp. \$7.75.

Lectures on Fourier Integrals. Salomon Bochner. With an author's supplement on monotonic functions, Stieltjes integrals, and harmonic analysis. Translated from the original by Morris Tenenbaum and Harry Pollard. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, N.J., 1959. 341 pp. Paper, \$5.

A Manual for Histologic Technicians. Ann Preece. Little, Brown, Boston, Mass., 1959. 228 pp.

Mathematical Programming and Electrical Networks. Jack B. Dennis. Technology Press and Wiley, New York; Chapman and Hall, London, 1959. 192 pp. \$4.50.

Measurement. Definitions and theories. C. West Churchman and Philburn Ratoosh, Eds. Wiley, New York; Chapman and Hall, London, 1959. 282 pp. \$7.95.

Protein and Amino Acid Nutrition. Anthony A. Albanese, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1959. 616 pp. \$16.

Races and People. William C. Boyd and Isaac Asimov. Abelard-Schuman, New York, 1959. 189 pp. \$2.75.