

## Book Reviews

**The New Nigerian Elite.** Hugh H. Smythe and Mabel M. Smythe. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1960. ix + 195 pp. Illus. \$5.

The Smythes' study of the emergent Nigerian elite is timely not only because of Nigerian independence but because there is pressing necessity to understand the leaders of nascent nationalism in Africa generally. In the latter context, this book is recommended as providing knowledge about that sort of elite without which, as in the case of the Congo, independence becomes chaos.

The authors show some conceptual and methodological inelegance in the derivation of their list of the 156 people who constitute the upper-level new elite. The list can, however, be accepted as including a large proportion of the Nigerians in top prestige and power positions in institutions deriving from Western contact. The contribution of the study lies in its analysis of the characteristics of this group, its regional variations, and how it came into being. The new data collected in 1957-58 are set in a historical framework, the early portion of which leans heavily on Sir Alan Burns' *History of Nigeria*, reproducing its anthropological inaccuracies but eliminating its British colonial bias. Discussion of the more recent period traces the development of the elite from their beginnings in the urbanization and westernization of Nigeria.

One of the clearest factors in the formation of the elite is the impact of Western education. All of the top elite speak English, and almost half hold one or more university degrees, largely from foreign institutions. Seventy percent occupy government-connected positions of some sort, which is to be expected in a country whose productive and commercial activities are either small-scale or in foreign hands. Businessmen make up only 12 percent of the elite, and only three trade union officials are found in it. A majority of the top government officials are professional men, and only nine members of the

elite are traditional rulers who have assumed roles in the new forms of government. The break with the past is not abrupt, however, for a third of the new elite come from old ruling families.

An insightful part of the study analyzes the style of life of the elite, who have assumed many of the manners of the colonial British, living in Western style houses equipped even to electric fans, maintaining staffs of servants, and belonging to social and sports clubs. Divergences from the British pattern are also revealing. Although the elite work in European clothes, they assume native dress at home, for comfort, and at important social functions, as a mark of national identification. While the physical attributes of the home are Western, the level of housekeeping is low by Western standards, for the wives of the elite do not have the same background as their husbands.

As the elite have assumed the power and manners of the British, they have also inherited the public image of "exploiters." The acquisition of the amenities which are the identifying marks of the elite is, in the popular mind, evidence of the self-seeking of public officials. The idealistic forces for freedom and national improvement which the elite symbolize are in conflict with their class values.

The new elite with roots in the old are politically more conservative than their self-made colleagues. With the progressive realization of independence, the radicals have, in a sense, lost their cause by winning it. The moderates are in control.

Understanding of the forces which shape the elite runs throughout the Smythes' account of the formal characteristics of the group. It is this which makes social science of what might have only been a social survey. It is social science without jargon. A unique and unbiased work on an important subject, the book is worthy of wide attention.

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**The Kirtland's Warbler.** Harold Mayfield. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., 1960 (order from University Publishers, New York). xv + 242 pp. Illus. \$6.

**Life Histories of Central American Birds.** 2. Families Vireonidae, Sylviidae, Turdidae, Troglodytidae, Paridae, Corvidae, Hirundinidae, and Tyrannidae. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 34. Alexander F. Skutch. Cooper Ornithological Society, Berkeley, Calif., 1960. 593 pp. Illus.

**Bird Portraits in Color.** Two hundred ninety-five North American species. Thomas S. Roberts. Revised by Walter J. Breckenridge and others. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1960. Illus. \$5.95.

Among recent publications on American birds, the three reviewed here deserve special mention, two of them for the new material they contain, and one for its illustrations.

Mayfield's volume *The Kirtland's Warbler*, is a unique monographic study, unique in that it presents a study of the entire population of a species. This warbler has the most restricted breeding range of any North American song bird; it nests only in a few counties in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in 1951 had a carefully estimated total population of 1000 adult individuals. It is apparently a relict species now severely limited by its requirement of a specialized nesting habitat which exists in a gradually diminishing area. In addition to this, the parasitic brown-headed cowbird has recently moved into the area and has become a very serious problem to the warbler, which has no adequate defense. In other words, we have here what may be a disappearing species and one which is certainly in a critical state. Mayfield presents a meticulous account of the history, distribution, and life history of this bird; he includes a special study of the cowbird in its relations to the Kirtland's warbler and a closely reasoned quantitative appraisal of its reproduction and mortality. All through the book one finds a most welcome mathematical approach, but an approach that probably can be attained only in treating a compactly situated species of very limited numbers.

Skutch's volume, the second in a series, presents a wealth of new observations on the vireos, warblers, thrushes, wrens, titmice, jays, swallows, and flycatchers of Central America. This is pioneering work, dealing with pro-

longed and careful field studies of a very rich avifauna previously known largely from the casual notes of collectors of specimens. Unlike so many pioneering efforts, Skutch's work has all the academic finish of the best modern studies of well-known species and has the advantage of presenting the author's interesting and penetrating thoughts and judgments, based on wide reading, together with his new factual material. No one entering upon a serious study of any of the North American species of the families covered in this book can afford to neglect this opportunity to become familiar with the knowledge of their tropical relatives, so ably recorded here on the basis of Skutch's prolonged residence and devoted work in Central America.

The third volume *Bird Portraits in Color* is illustrated with 92 colored plates, first issued in Roberts's two-volume work *The Birds of Minnesota*; it is a revised edition of an earlier presentation of the plates with a much abridged version of the text that Roberts had prepared for his larger work. W. J. Breckenridge, D. W. Warner, and R. W. Dickerman revised the text. The present book is primarily a picture book of some 295 North American bird species, but it gives enough carefully condensed information to be a reliable, easy reference work for the amateur bird student.

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#### Basic Values of Western Civilization.

Shepard B. Clough. Columbia University Press, New York, 1960. x + 132 pp. \$3.

This eloquently written small book, by a historian at Columbia University, represents a pioneering attempt to describe systematically the basic values of Western culture. The enterprise grew out of a Columbia University faculty seminar devoted to the content and methods of the social sciences. When the seminar turned to the question of the basic values of a culture, Clough collaborated especially with the anthropologist John P. Gillin in the application of the concepts of "culture" and "values" to a problem with which he had long been concerned: the role of ideologies and ideals in shaping human behavior through time.

After a brief discussion of concepts

and methods, Clough moves immediately and boldly to a very large canvas—the whole of Western culture—and describes our basic values in five chapters: "The end of man is man"; "Societal institutions as basic values"; "Material values"; "Knowledge, religion, and aesthetics"; and "The glorification of progress." The book then closes with a chapter on variations in values and a chapter on the future of Western values.

Clough's discussion of methods is clear and succinct, and most anthropologists would, I think, also go along with his definitions of concepts and theories, except for one major point. He states that "in every culture the way of life of people is determined most basically by a set of values concerning goals to be attained" (page 2). While most anthropologists think that values are one of the determinants of culture, few would agree that the value system is always the most basic determinant. Indeed, there is much evidence to the contrary, especially in cultures with a hunting and gathering economy where the patterns are clearly determined most basically by ecological and economic conditions.

I find his chapters on the basic values to be somewhat uneven in approach, interest, and quality. His treatments in "The end of man is man" and the "Glorification of progress," are masterful summaries of these two key values. I am less impressed with the other chapters, and his description of societal institutions (that is, family, school, church, and nation-state) does not appear to me to advance the subject matter much beyond what one can read in an introductory textbook on sociology. I am also skeptical when he states "the social scientist can hardly resist the temptation to point the way our society seems to be moving and to suggest action which would turn it in the direction in which he would like to see it move" (page 118). Many of us feel we are several decades short of having the kind of social-science knowledge we need to make such predictions and suggest such action.

On the other hand, I agree with Clough's basic point that we in the West have been far too inarticulate about our basic values and that it is high time we studied them and made them more explicit. I hope he will persist in his efforts to find time and financial support "to write a long and heavily documented work based on extensive field work and intensive personal

interviewing" (page viii), for in so doing he will undoubtedly answer the critical points I have raised. In the meantime, the present book is an interesting addition to our accumulating literature on the value systems of cultures.

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#### Advances in Fluorine Chemistry. vol.

1. M. Stacey, J. C. Tatlow, and A. G. Sharpe, Eds. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1960. vii + 203 pp. \$8.

In this era of accelerating increase in scientific research and its associated increase in the number of publications and the mediums of publication, it is extremely helpful to have well-written, comprehensive, and critical surveys or reviews, bringing together scattered information under logical canopies. The chemistry of fluorine and fluoro compounds, because of the extreme properties of the element itself or those of its compounds, requires a niche of its own in the chemical literature. That it has achieved this niche is evident, for the first international conference on fluorine chemistry was held a year ago at the University of Birmingham in England. The editors of this series were the organizers of that conference, and they have by their own research, contributed greatly to this field in which they have an enthusiastic interest. A good portion of this first volume was written by them.

The volume reviewed here is the first of a proposed new series which will, if continued in the excellent style of this initial volume, greatly advance the development of the field, and delineate the position of fluorine chemistry. This first volume covers much of the inorganic chemistry of fluorine and of the methods of fluorinating organic compounds. The subjects covered are: "The halogen fluorides—their preparation and uses in organic chemistry," by W. N. R. Musgrave; "Transition metal fluorides and their complexes," by A. G. Sharpe; "Fluoroboric acids and their derivatives," by D. W. A. Sharp; "The electrochemical process for the synthesis of fluoro-organic compounds," by J. Burdon and J. C. Tatlow; and "Exhaustive fluorinations of organic compounds with high valency metallic fluorides," by M. Stacey