

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