

Book Reviews

Peroxide, Axes, and Aspirin

Mambu. A Melanesian millennium. Kenelm Burridge. Humanities Press, New York, 1961. xxiii + 296 pp. Illus. \$8.50.

During the present century the native peoples of Melanesia have produced dozens of millenarian religious movements. These Melanesian movements are generally called "cargo cults" by Europeans. Comparable religious movements have been recorded among Indians of North and South America, among Negroes of Africa, and, indeed, among most of the tribal peoples of the earth. Historians and sociologists have studied similar events in the history of the major civilizations. Recently these movements, in both tribal and urban cultures, have attracted much attention from anthropologists, and there has been a small spate of theoretical and descriptive writing on the subject of what are variously termed nativistic movements, revitalization movements, cargo cults, and the like, particularly among tribal peoples in the throes of acculturation to Western civilization. In such movements there is usually a revolutionary code which defines the existing society as evil and which urges action—rational or irrational, magical or realistic, religious or political—to bring about a better state of affairs.

In the early 1950's Burridge spent some time with the people of Tangu, a small tribal group in the Australian Trust Territory of New Guinea. Although he did not observe a cargo cult in full flower, Burridge was able to learn much of the oral history of two such recent cults, and he was further able to study the climate of experience, belief, and emotion in which such cults develop. The title of this book, *Mambu*, is the name of one of the earlier prophets who led an abortive cargo movement.

Although the people involved in the narrative are few and their customs and beliefs exotic, or even bizarre, to Western eyes, the larger point which Burridge makes is obligatory for an understanding of the motive which brings many tribal (and civilized) peoples to participate in such movements generally. This motive is the desperate wish to establish an identity as competent and respectable human beings in some sort of morally equivalent relationship with a dominant alien people. The bulk of the book is devoted to analyzing the combinations of native culture, historical circumstance, and moral pressure exerted by missionaries and Australian administrators which have caused the Tangu to see the portal to manhood as a religious movement which anticipates a millennium. This millennium, with its cargo of hydrogen peroxide, axes, aspirin, rice, and so forth, is but the symbol of the achievement of equality with, and acceptance by, the "moral European."

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Chromatography Handbook

Handbuch der Papierchromatographie. vol. 1, *Grundlagen und Technik*. 1958. 860 pp. Illus. \$14.60. vol. 2, *Bibliographie und Anwendungen*. 1960. 726 pp. \$11. I. M. Hais and K. Macek, Eds. Gustav Fischer, Jena, East Germany.

The forerunner of these volumes, *Papirova Chromatografie* (I. M. Hais and K. Macek Eds., Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1954), was reviewed in *Science* 6 years ago [122, 473 (1955)]; but the volumes are not a translation into German of the earlier Czechoslovakian volume, nor

are all of the collaborators the same. Volume 1 contains the work of 22 collaborators, including the editors.

As far as I can tell, they comprise the most authoritative monographs on paper chromatography available. Their distinction rests not only on the breadth of the literature coverage, which extends to the end of 1956, but also, and chiefly, on the approach. This combines, in volume 1, practical instructions with theoretical enquiry into the principles which can be derived from practice and which should guide new work. In other words, the subject of paper chromatography is treated as a science, as in the previous volume, but now with more years of experience and published work to draw upon.

Volume 1 provides a brief historical chapter in which are reproduced in color two plates from Runge's early work and six examples of capillary analysis. This chapter includes photographs of Consden, Gordon, Martin, and Synge. The second chapter deals with principles and theory in a clear and lavishly illustrated manner. Then follow five chapters in which every step of the process is described in detail, with discussion of the influence of various factors such as the nature of the paper, the effect of shape and position of initial spot (or zone), and so on. Included also are sections on outfitting a laboratory, working with radioactive substances, and carrying out paper chromatography on a preparative scale. These chapters complete the general part of the book: some 224 pages, including a bibliography for each chapter.

The special part of the book contains chapters into which separations are gathered in terms of functional group and molecular class: alcohols, carbonyl compounds, aliphatic acids, carbohydrates, phenols and aromatic acids, steroids, hydrocarbons and other lipophilic substances, amines, nitrocompounds, amino acids, peptides, proteins, purines and pyrimidines, alkaloids, other heterocyclic nitrogen compounds, organic sulfur compounds, vitamins, antibiotics, insecticides, synthetic pigments, and inorganic substances. Each chapter has its own bibliography.

The final part of the book continues an important feature of the earlier volume, namely a section on reagents (189 in number) for detecting spots, with recipes, and in many cases alternative recipes. This is followed by a section of some 144 items bearing on