

For example, the weight of cerium almost matches the weight of nitrogen in the crust of the earth.

In his monograph, *The Chemistry of the Lanthanides*, Therald Moeller provides the wherewithal for the chemist described in the previous paragraphs. The book is well organized. It is written at a level that will enable undergraduate chemistry students to appreciate the lanthanides as an important and interesting group of elements. First, the history of the discovery of the lanthanides is unfolded; then atomic structure and oxidation states are discussed. Chapter 4 is devoted to practical aspects, and the very brief chapter 5 relates the actinides to the lanthanides.

I was disappointed with only one section—that on color and light absorption in chapter 2. Specifically, the discussion of inner $4f^n$ transitions will certainly baffle eager young students, and, I am afraid, many lazy older ones, who do not know that the configurations $4f^1$, $4f^3$, and $4f^4$ give only the single terms 2F , 2F , and 1S , respectively, and that the other configurations give more than one term. It is not obvious from the text why $4f^1$ should be colorless if crystal fields make the transitions possible (which they do not). However, this is only a minor criticism of a book which I thoroughly enjoyed and which I believe is a substantial contribution to chemical education.

The book is almost completely free of printing errors. All in all, it is a bargain at \$1.95.

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Anthropology

Ethnic Origins of the Peoples of Northeastern Asia. Arctic Institute of North America, Anthropology of the North, No. 3. M. G. Levin. Henry N. Michael, Ed. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1963. xii + 355 pp. Illus. Paper, \$3.50.

The Arctic Institute edition of this classic is a fitting memorial to its author, M. G. Levin, whose untimely death on 18 April 1963 saddened all those who were privileged to know him. It is regrettable that he did not live to see this English translation of his crowning achievement—a project in which he took such satisfaction. Levin, who rose to be deputy director of the

Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., was one of the last of the all-round anthropologists, equally at home in physical anthropology, ethnography, and archeology, a masterful scholar and an incredibly productive one, who will also be remembered for the charm and warmth of his personality.

This work was originally published in 1958, as volume 36 of the *Trudy* of the Institute of Ethnography, under the title "Physical anthropology and ethnogenetic problems of the peoples of the Far East." For Western readers the new title more accurately reflects the contents. This well-edited volume represents a new high in this distinguished translation series.

To the science of man, northeastern Asia is both crucial and little known. Without a better understanding of this key area, we cannot hope to interpret man's biological history over most of the world. Levin has provided us with a definitive summary and review of the available information, as of 1956, from the earliest prehistoric traces to the living populations; his work is based on Soviet research and on an amazing acquaintance with foreign publications. The resulting indispensable reference work, an outstanding example of the interdisciplinary approach, hews to the thesis that the data of physical anthropology are inadequate when dissociated from the data of ethnography, archeology, and linguistics. The consequent broad scope and wide range of information make it of interest and value to a larger audience—to all who are concerned with the biological or cultural history of man in the lands surrounding the North Pacific Ocean. Unquestionably, this volume is one of the very best products of Soviet anthropology to date.

The first chapter, a history of research on the physical anthropology of northern Asia from the time of Bering's expedition to the present and a historical and critical survey of racial classifications and their bases, forms a valuable work in itself. Subsequent chapters cover the population of the Amur-Sakhalin area, the Tungus peoples, the Paleoasiatics and Eskimos (classified together as the Arctic Mongoloid race), and the question of the enigmatic Ainu. In all cases there is a review of previous work, a presentation of detailed data from the author's own field researches, and summaries of pertinent information from prehistory and ethnography; this is followed by

discussion of the problems posed, not all of which can be resolved on present evidence. Appendixes present useful data on the physical type of Koreans and Japanese. It should be pointed out that, because of recent advances, the review of Japanese prehistory and paleo-anthropology is out-of-date and that the author's own subsequent excavations at Bering Strait have thrown further light on Eskimo history. But as a whole this monograph is of lasting value and will serve as a base line for all future research.

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History of Medicine

A Short History of Medicine. Charles Singer and E. Ashworth Underwood. Oxford University Press, New York, ed. 2, 1962. xx + 854 pp. Illus. \$10.

In 1928, in the preface to his *A Short History of Medicine*, Charles Singer wrote, "... two particular aims have been steadily kept in view: first, to stress the principles of Medicine rather than the details of practice; second, to treat of these principles in as small a space as may be. For 'principles' the author has substituted at times the word 'Philosophy.' He would ... beseech the timid reader to take no alarm at a word. ..."

Thirty-three years later, E. Ashworth Underwood presents a revised version of the book. The neat 368 pages of Singer's writings have grown to 854 much fuller pages. And details, names, and dates have sadly swamped Philosophy. The justification offered is that "... scant justice was to be done to the greatly increased output of important scientific researches ... and to the historical studies published during the last three decades." But this is a will o' the wisp. For in this edition, the following appears on page 696, "... it is possible that [penicillins] may soon supplant organic arsenicals entirely in the treatment of syphilis." Under the discussion of teeth and their diseases, fluoride is not mentioned. And I was unable to find anything on chromosomes, DNA, or RNA. A chauvinistic flavor is introduced by too lengthy and fullsome praise of British personages, such as Macewan and Henry Dale. And, inevitably with bulk, errors of cross-reference are multiplied. An excellent example is