

Book Reviews

Personality and Culture

Six Cultures: Studies of Child Rearing.

Beatrice B. Whiting, Ed. Wiley, New York, 1963. viii + 1017 pp. Illus. \$12.50.

This report of six parallel studies of child rearing and its consequences involves six cultures, six ethnographic teams, and six extraordinarily different sets of field problems. Yet, for once, the data are truly parallel and sufficiently comparable to offer the possibility of quantification in ethnography at the data-collection level and not only after-the-fact, as the cross-cultural area files.

To social science, an important area of investigation is the effects of divergent cultural practices that are involved in rearing the young of the species. Adult personality is thought to result in large measure from experiences and training, starting in infancy and going through the early childhood years. However, the relationships between specific practices and specific aspects of personality are just beginning to be firmly nailed down, and the effects of interaction between the cultural beliefs, the constitutional factors of a given child or group, and the particular ways of a given mother still need a great deal of elucidation.

Since experimental manipulation of the environment in which children grow up is not feasible in most aspects of their lives, naturalistic study of parents' behavior, obtained by observation or report, and related to personality indices of children and adults, has been the method of choice. For our own culture there is now a sizable body of knowledge derived from such research, with sufficient confirmation to allow certain relationships to be regarded as well established.

Six Cultures: Studies of Child Rearing represents a major contribution to the broadening of such knowledge.

Here we have careful study of six widely divergent cultures—one is a small New England town and the others are in Kenya, in Khalapur (India), on the island of Okinawa, in Mexico (a small barrio at Oaxaca), and in the Philippines. The work has been carefully systematized so that the same information is available from each culture. Comparisons among the six are thus possible to an extent rarely found in previous anthropological literature. Each of the cultures has been studied and reported by a different pair of investigators; however the work was coordinated by common theory, questions, and techniques. Initially all of the investigators received a common period of training, and they followed agreed-upon techniques of investigation as they worked in the field.

Both adult and child behavior are given extensive coverage, in some cases by the use of comparative statistics (for example, of crime and education) and in others by observer reports on certain activities (such as leisure time and typical work patterns). Folk tales, religious beliefs, and theories of disease are given attention as indices of adult personality patterns. The authors summarize the conceptual scheme in the following way: "... ecology, economics, social and political organization are viewed as setting the parameters for the behavior of the agents of child rearing. Child behavior is viewed as an index of child personality, and adult behavior, beliefs and values as indices of adult personality" (p. 5). The child-rearing practices may then be regarded as arising out of, and designed to carry forward, the culture of the adults.

There is a wealth of descriptive ethnographic material here. Each of the six monographs is fascinating reading in its own right; each provides provocation with respect to the formulation of hypotheses about the effects of the socialization process. Comparison of

one culture with each of the others can be done on a great number of dimensions, and will provide some preliminary checks on such hypotheses. Subsequent publications from the same research project will present quantitative data that will permit tests of clear hypotheses, both intraculturally and cross-culturally.

The volume, which is the work of a team of researchers, was edited by Beatrice B. Whiting; the senior investigators were Irvin L. Child, William W. Lambert, and John W. M. Whiting. The field workers (and also the authors of the monographs that describe the six cultures) were Robert LeVine and Barbara LeVine (Nyansongo: A Gusii community in Kenya); Leight Minturn and John T. Hitchcock (The Rajputs of Khalapur, India); Thomas W. Maretzki and Hatsumi Maretzki (Taira: An Okinawan village); Kimball Romney and Romaine Romney (The Mixtecos of Juxtlahuaca, Mexico); William F. Nydegger and Corinne Nydegger (Tarong: An Ilocos barrio in the Philippines); John L. Fischer and Ann Fischer (The New Englanders of Orchard Town, U.S.A.).

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A Synoptic Approach

Animal Physiology. Bradley T. Scheer.

Wiley, New York, 1963. xii + 409 pp. Illus. \$9.95.

Bradley Scheer's other books, *General Physiology* and *Comparative Physiology*, are well known. The present book *Animal Physiology* is not a revised amalgam of the previous volumes but a synoptic approach to animal physiology as opposed to human physiology, cell physiology, or comparative physiology.

The book is divided into four sections: I, Metabolism (84 pp); II, Irritability (81 pp); III, Vegetal activity (112 pp); IV, Integrative functions (108 pp). The number of pages, and hence the balance given to the various topics, is as follows. In Section I: Biological oxidation, 30 pages; energy transformation, 13; cell structure, 20; functions of cell boundaries, 13. Section II: Excitation of animal cells, 9; contraction of muscle, 17; excitation of receptors, 35; transmission of excitation, 11. Section III: Nutrition, 30; body fluids and respiration, 26; circulation of body fluids, 20; intermediary

metabolism, 34. Section IV: Nature of integration, 30; conservative regulation (that is, pH, blood flow, and salts), 35; progressive regulation (that is, differentiation, growth, and reproduction), 19; nervous integration, 21. There is a 22-page index as well as 119 figures and 35 well-packed tables. Each chapter is provided with 20 to 40 key references.

In the present-day plethora of academic symposia written by many hands, it is a great pleasure to see that one man can still make a valid appraisal of the subject of animal physiology as a whole, and the book gains a great deal from this individual approach. Throughout the book, the author has shown that one can understand living systems only if one knows both the biochemical and the physiological parameters. Thus, at least 100 of the pages have biochemical formulas and equations on them, and the formulas are always integrated into the treatment of the general workings of the animal. Those who read this book will never become the kind of biochemist that thinks of the liver merely as a convenient source of mitochondria.

The text is very readable, and the factual data are arranged so that the major ideas and concepts stand out clearly. Both recent views (NAD, cyclical AMP, voltage clamp, and tubule counter-current exchange) and classical views (Lavoisier, Von Helmholtz, and Claude Bernard) are presented. Although the general approach is simple, the author does not fail to indicate that some of the present-day concepts are not consistent with experimental data, and a critical attitude is inculcated. A lot of ground work is covered, but Scheer has not forgotten that it is equally important to let the reader "have a glimpse of the stars" too. The overall effect of the book is that of an optimistic approach to physiology, and the reader will be left with the feeling that animal physiology is an exciting subject full of interesting problems waiting to be solved.

Some readers may feel that undue, or too little, emphasis is given to various aspects of the subject. I think the basic question that one should ask is, "Would I be content if, after one year of study, my students knew and appreciated the material presented in this book?" The answer must be an unqualified "Yes."

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Atmospheric Composition

Air Chemistry and Radioactivity. Christian E. Junge. Academic Press, New York 1963. xii + 382 pp. Illus. \$13.50.

Christian Junge is particularly well qualified to write on atmospheric composition because of his life-long interest in the subject. He has worked in this field in Germany and in the United States, and he is continuing this work at the Universitätsinstitut für Meteorologie und Geophysik, Mainz, Germany.

This book could be more appropriately entitled, "Atmospheric Composition," since the author's main topics are the chemical composition of the atmosphere, of dust, of radioactive contaminants, and of rain. Five main subjects are considered: (i) gas composition; (ii) aerosol and (iii) radioactive materials (their quantities, composition, distribution, and transport); (iv) the chemical content of precipitation in the form of snow and ice; and (v) air pollution (a brief account). The second and third topics appear to be his main interests. His title for the fourth chapter, "Chemistry of precipitation," is vague; for example, he does not discuss the physical chemistry of nucleation.

First and foremost, Junge presents a complete discussion of the available information on the topics mentioned above. His list (418) of early and recent references should prove to be a valuable source of further information on particular subjects. It is important to realize, however, that he intentionally omits both experimental methods of obtaining atmospheric composition and a description of the atmosphere above 50 km where chemical reactions predominate. His approach to the interdependencies of composition and atmospheric processes involves a study of the facts and laws of injection, transport, and removal of all kinds of matter in our atmosphere. His consideration of chemical compounding in the homosphere is limited to the photochemical balance of ozone, the possible effects of lightning, radioactive decay, and a few other rare processes. The intriguing possibility that the mole fraction of water vapor increases with height in the stratosphere is explained by large-scale mixing processes in the region of the winter pole. Many interesting details about the large-scale circulation between troposphere and stratosphere are brought to light by his summary of the tracking of radioactive

bomb products and other dusts. The CO₂ balance of the earth and the effects of photosynthesis, fuels, and seawater storage are discussed; however, the role of C¹⁴O₂ is but briefly outlined.

In general, this survey is useful, and it will be welcome owing to the increasing importance of atmospheric composition in the scientific and in the political fields. Junge's summary of the many man-made contaminations of our air, both in the form of photochemical smog and in more subtle and—to date—innoxious ways, is particularly interesting and critical. This well-written and superbly executed book will be an asset not only to meteorologists, but also to chemists and even legislators who are battling air pollution and radioactive fallout.

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Ornithology

Birds of Wisconsin. Owen J. Gromme.

Published for the Milwaukee Public Museum by the University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1963. xvi + 220 pp. Illus. Until 1 Feb., \$18; \$22.50.

Although this book's title is *Birds of Wisconsin* it should be "Illustrations of the Birds of Wisconsin," for it is a picture book that presents, in color, all the birds yet recorded with certainty from that state. As such, it is not intended to be a reference source for discrete details of occurrence and habit or other information; it is designed to give pleasure to its users as they thumb through the pages and enjoy the complete series of colored avian portraits, painstakingly painted by Owen J. Gromme, longtime curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum. A companion text volume is contemplated.

The first 89 plates portray the 328 species of known Wisconsin birds; the remaining plates (16) are grouped under a subtitle "Birds in Action and in Habitat." The second group was painted with no intention of including them in a book but merely to depict various aspects of the birds in their surroundings and in poses evocative of remembered observational experiences. Opposite each of the first 89 plates is a page of corresponding, but smaller, silhouette sketches; each sketch is accompanied by a map of Wisconsin that