

in a very clear and succinct summary, "Susceptibility of primates to viruses in relation to taxonomic classification," present the available data on this topic. Bender and Chu give their latest review of the chromosomes of primates, revealing how complex is the task of relating karyotype of taxonomy, not to mention phylogeny.

The most puzzling sections to evaluate are the editor's two prefaces and his chapter "An introduction to the primates" (the first chapter). These are almost exclusively concerned with naming and classifying the living members of the order. In the first half of his chapter, the editor gives his views on the relationships of the major groups and discusses, often with refreshing candor, the roles that data from the more modern techniques are and are not playing in the elucidation of problems in primate taxonomy and evolution. The latter half of the chapter presents two outline classification schemes: a longer, "comprehensive" scheme and a shorter, "synoptic" one. It is unclear what purpose these two lists of names, which extend for 25 pages, are intended to serve: they are not used as a taxonomic or nomenclatorial standard by the other authors—in fact, their use would present a problem because the two schemes are so contradictory, one being an extreme "splitter's" view and the other, a "lumper's." Furthermore, in the face of the current tangle of multiple synonyms and half-synonyms in certain families, these bare lists would need copious annotations to be of real use. The most original parts of this chapter are those dealing with animals from Madagascar and East Africa. Buettner-Janusch has had field experience in both regions, and the animals that he has imported have provided part of the basis for his own studies and for those of other contributors to these volumes. Unfortunately some of his clear photographs of rarely seen lemurs are so badly reproduced that they are of little scientific value. As the result of poor cropping, uneconomic spacing, and the muddy quality of the reproduction, the illustrations in this chapter contrast with the generally high technical standards maintained elsewhere in the book.

Intrinsically, then, these 13 chapters are valuable contributions to primatology. Surely their authors should have been better served by editor and publisher. Although the routine procedures

of book manufacture have been carried out creditably (the volumes are sturdily bound and well printed on glossy paper), nevertheless, in many of those processes whereby the publishing of a book is distinguished from its physical production, these volumes are seriously deficient. Certainly the editor deserves commendation for initiating and contributing to this project, but it is abundantly clear that he was not at hand during crucial stages in the production of the first volume—the careful reader can discover, printed inconspicuously at the very end of the second volume, two full pages of the editor's corrections, "Errata for volume 1." Furthermore, there are few signs of any editorial attempt to correlate disparate elements in these papers—evolutionary concepts, nomenclature both taxonomic and anatomical, or even simple spelling. The editor is uneasily aware of this deficiency and frankly admits it in the preface to volume 2. It would also seem that had both editor and publisher been less intent on rushing their book into print, the two volumes might have been issued as a single, carefully edited and integrated unit, with one comprehensive index, and the reader might have been spared both expense and inconvenience.

## Cultural Change

**When Caste Barriers Fall: A Study of Social and Economic Change in a South Indian Village.** Dagfinn Sivertsen. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo; Humanities Press, New York, 1963. 141 pp. Illus. \$4.

Caste in India and its neighboring countries is a social phenomenon about which Indologists and social scientists, as well as social and economic planners, share a strong and abiding interest. And with good reason, for in its many regional variations, caste permeates many spheres of life among the peoples who share the Indian cultural tradition. But it is not the granitic system of social division that some have portrayed it as being. In contemporary India it is changing rapidly in response to deliberate political, economic, and social action. What happens when alien political ideologies and organizations collide with traditional authority as it is embedded in the caste system? This

is the question that Dagfinn Sivertsen asks in *When Caste Barriers Fall*, a case study of just such a confrontation in a single village of Madras State where Sivertsen worked during 1957 and 1958.

The small community of this study is a multicaste agrarian village; the central social and economic issues are over land; and the alien influences are the national political parties, the unions, and state intervention. The results of the social action triggered by this tense situation were changes in feudal, contractual, and ritual interrelations among castes. In short, significant alterations in the system of authority and power relationships were observed. However, the caste system does not collapse as the title of the book might suggest.

This book, unlike so many on the subject of caste, is not written with only the specialist in Indian sociology in mind. Throughout there are brief explanatory passages that give the background essential for understanding the many facets of caste in this South Indian village. Fortunately, too, more of the book is devoted to the technology and economics of agriculture than to other topics, so the basis for the unrest that precipitates political action is clearly presented to the reader. This is a modest study that is topical and has significant relevance to the now voluminous literature on caste in India and to broader aspects of social and culture change. Moreover, it is well done and equally well presented.

WILLIAM DAVENPORT  
University Museum,  
University of Pennsylvania

## Polarography

**Organic Polarographic Analysis.** Petr Zuman. Pergamon, London; Macmillan, New York, 1964. x + 313 pp. Illus. \$6.50.

This volume by Petr Zuman extends the list of distinguished books on polarography which have come out of the Polarographic Institute at Prague. The author comments in the preface that "even though organic chemists interested in physical methods . . . have contributed much to our knowledge and understanding of this branch of applied electrochemistry, organic chemists are still little informed about the potentialities of polarography." Within these