

sional biologists . . . interested in current research on heredity, and laymen who have had some education in biology. . . ." For all but perhaps the last group the book is to be enthusiastically recommended. Far from preparing a dull history or just another review, Ravin has shown the best in literary skill and has allowed the ideas to lead the reader through the course of 65 years of genetics. One is intrigued by the clarity, simplicity, and brevity by which the thought sequence is developed. The major contributions of individual workers are credited without fanfare and without breaking the flow of thought. Although most of the text develops the concepts of molecular genetics as elucidated from microbial genetic systems and biochemical techniques, the legacy of "classical genetics" (defined by the author as pre-1940) is clearly silhouetted. In the last chapter, modern genetic theory is related to the unanswered problems in genetics, and indeed to those of all biology. Ravin's careful explanation of the essential meaning of nearly every term introduced could well serve

as a glossary for contemporary genetic terminology. Two minor inaccuracies, or perhaps lack of clarity, should be mentioned. One wonders in what way Beadle and Tatum revealed the immense power of selective systems. The first selective systems, if by this Ravin means the application of selective techniques, were applied to bacterial systems and only later to fungi. The description of somatic recombination and its detection by the parasexual cycle is unclear, perhaps because of brevity. The reader is left with the impression that mitotic recombination can be detected only after haploidization. Perhaps he means somatic recombination can best be verified via analysis of haploids. In conclusion, the book can best be characterized as providing perspective—perspective on the relation between classical and molecular genetics and perspective on what genetic research has revealed—and a prognosis of where genetics has yet to go.

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## Continuity and Change in Social Organization

**Arab Border-Villages in Israel.** Abner Cohen. Humanities Press, New York; Manchester University Press, Manchester, England, 1965. xiv + 194 pp. Illus. \$6.

All those interested in Arabs, kinship organization, Israeli politics, peasants, or the process of social change will find Abner Cohen's book, *Arab Border-Villages in Israel*, both informative and stimulating. His monograph is the last in a distinguished line of descent (Barnes, *Marriage in a Changing Society*; Gluckman, *The Judicial Process among the Barotse*; Mitchell, *The Yao Village*; Turner, *Schism and Continuity in an African Society*) that attempts to combine functional and processual analysis and "the extended-case method" in reference to the institutions of marriage and kinship.

Cohen attempts to trace the changes during the past 30 years of the social and political structure of a single Arab village in Israel: from the dominance of a single patrilineal kin group to a class alliance across descent group lines and then to a reemergence of competing patrilineal kin groups in a wider political and economic arena.

He argues that these changes are representative of those taking place in the wider area known as "The Triangle." One of the great strengths of the analysis is the author's knowledge of the popular idioms of the Arabic language and his recognition of the symbolic significance of these idioms for general sociological processes (see, for example, pp. 58, 90, 105, 108). He has described rather graphically the dilemma of Arabs on the border who, although they must increasingly enter the Israeli economy, must, also increasingly, assert their cultural separation from the society that it represents.

The validity of Cohen's main theme, however, is open to question. Has village social and political organization developed in the three stages he outlines: strong patrilineages with a single one usually dominant, to class alliances, to a reemergence of patrilineages in a wider arena? His "extended" cases of patriliney belie this claim. Affinal and matrilineal ties are not merely a "domestic" aspect of patriliney (see pp. 110 to 119). They are as critical for the political struggle within the village in the third stage as they were in the second (see, for ex-

ample, pp. 63, 74, 76, 77, 85, 90 to 92, 106, and 120). Although rights of women are said to operate according to "the order of priority between men [as] . . . determined by genealogical [patrilineally defined] nearness . . ." in the third stage, statements elsewhere suggest otherwise (see p. 121 as opposed to p. 75).

Finally, the critic must question the zero point that Cohen assumes in his analysis. Were patrilineages ("hamulas") ever so strong in the first place? Did "hamulas" ever exert collective ownership and control over land in the "mushā" system? To my knowledge, there has never been a field study of the "mushā" system in operation to substantiate such a claim. My investigations in Kufr al Ma, a village in East Jordan which presumably had in the past just the type of "mushā" system described by Granott, Weulersse, and others, mainly from literary sources, disclosed that the participating individuals were not exclusively patrilineal kinsmen. Rather, they were villagers, related patrilineally or affinally, or *unrelated*, who decided in an *ad hoc* fashion to come together for the purpose of partition.

No matter how much one disagrees with Cohen's analysis, he must accept Cohen's book as one of the most provocative contributions to social anthropology in the last decade.

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## Organic Chemistry

**Methoden der Organischen Chemie (Houben-Weyl).** vol. 6, pt. 3, *Sauerstoffverbindungen*. G. Dittus, H. Kröper, and H. Meerwein. Thieme, Stuttgart, 1965. xlviii + 832 pp. Illus. DM. 212.

Part 3 of the sixth volume of *Houben-Weyl* deals with the preparation of ethers, acetals, and ortho-esters, and with the practically important reactions of these compounds. As in previous volumes of the series, the editors have succeeded in securing highly competent authors for all eight chapters in the book. Hans Meerwein himself has written the first four chapters, which comprise half of the pages.

Meerwein's first chapter covers the preparation of open-chain ethers, including phenol- and enol-ethers. Fifty-