ologic history, their ecological and distributional aspects, and principles of their classification, with an artificial generic key to the skulls of the included forms. Most of the book is concerned with accounts of the various species. Here are practical keys for the identification of forms, together with range maps and sketches to emphasize diagnostic characters. And, where appropriate, data on habits, physical traits, special adaptations, ways of life, habitats occupied, and the species' status in the ecosystem are included. Appendixes, which are quite repetitious, deal with the collection and preparation of study skins, a check list of the species treated, and a table of dental formulas; in addition to these, there are brief treatments of the principles of classification, a guide to the pronunciation of selected generic names, and an illustrated section on scats, all of which might profitably be deleted.

Some students and instructors will miss any reference to subspecies, except in the case of the deer; this may be desirable, however, at this level. The book is profusely and adequately illustrated, with photographs, drawings, figures of skulls and anatomical features, and sketches of footprints; of all these, the photographs as a group are particularly good. A selected bibliography (168 references) and a good index complete the volume. It should have a wide appeal among naturalists and vertebrate biologists of our western states.

RICHARD H. MANVILLE
Bird and Mammal Laboratories, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kinship and Social Organization

Choiseul Island Social Structure. Harold W. Scheffler. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1965. xiv + 322 pp. Illus. $7.

The kinship aspects of social organization are an old but increasingly specialized interest of social anthropologists. It is common to begin the classification of kinship systems by recognizing that people everywhere reckon descent from their ancestors in one or another of three ways: unilineally, where there is an emphasis upon relationship through either the male or female line; bilineally, where emphasis is placed on connection through males in some and females in other situations; or bilaterally, where kinship ties with the families of both parents are recognized equally.

The matter becomes more complex as patterns within these basic classifications are examined. Probably unilineal systems have been studied most until recently. Now attention has turned to an examination of the variety of patterned relationships commonly classified as bilateral. This has resulted in new interpretations of the data, a proliferation of new concepts, redefinitions of older terminology, and considerable disagreement about the results.

Scheffler, in a technical report to fellow specialists, makes a sound contribution with this analysis of kinship data from Choiseul Island, British Solomon Islands. His thesis is complex, owing to the highly technical problem and to a lip-smacking verbosity that seems to savor saying much the same thing in several ways. Nevertheless, careful reading and rereading are rewarding: much is learned about Choiseul Island social life and the data are used to illuminate theoretical problems of bilateral kinship.

The Choiseul Islanders recognize bilateral descent and, in Scheffler's scheme, these explicit verbalized kin ties are an ideology or dogma. He acknowledges that such data may be used to construct differing models of social structure depending on the analytical perspective, but a more meaningful model than others, he argues, will develop from an examination of the rhetorical use of the dogma of bilateral descent in day-to-day social transactions. [Could not this apply equally to unilineal systems?] This is a major theme that runs through this study of how the people of Choiseul seek personal ends by using the dogma of kinship, more or less skillfully, to persuade others in transactions involving land tenure, leadership, marriage, group affiliation, and religion.

In Choiseul, self-interest is paramount, its expression expected, but controlled by the need for group acceptance and support. The rules for behavior are neither unambiguous nor backed by legal or moral forces that would require their observance. Changing conditions make social transactions ever unique, so that men must decide which rules have ascendency in each situation. Prestige and its concomitants accrue to the most skillful rhetorician.

Scheffler has good data, his inferences are properly qualified, his speculations are labeled clearly. He concludes with a discussion of the theoretical implications of his study.

MALCOLM MCFEE
Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon, Eugene

Undergraduate Textbook

Physical Principles of Chemistry. Robert H. Cole and James S. Coles. Freeman, San Francisco, 1965. x + 795 pp. Illus. $12.

The Department of Chemistry at Brown University has for many years been a pioneer in studying and modifying the undergraduate curriculum for those students who plan to major in chemistry. The present text by Robert H. Cole, a professor at Brown University, and James S. Coles, formerly a professor at Brown University but now president of Bowdoin College, is an illustration of advanced thinking about undergraduate problems. The authors state quite frankly that this book is based on a syllabus used for sophomores at Brown, that it should be useful for juniors in many institutions, but that many freshman students would be well qualified to use it. These statements well illustrate the problems facing college teachers today.

The treatment of physical chemistry in this book is intermediate between that given in the larger books used by many departments at the junior and senior level and that given in books normally designed for sophomores. The first seven (out of 22) chapters are devoted to atomic and molecular theory. The treatment is essentially nonmathematical and in some respects does resemble that given in the best freshman textbooks. It is, however, more rigorous in most respects, and it is very clear and concise. Atomic and molecular weights, the nucleus, matter and radiation, quantum principles, molecular constitution, and the solid state are considered in successive chapters. This part of the