physical models of the nature of climate have taken over.

William D. Sellers's admirable little book, **Physical Climatology** (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1965. 280 pp., $7.50), reflects this last approach. Sellers attempts to look at the manifestations of climate as energy transformations, primarily at the boundary between the atmosphere and the earth's surface. Our debt to R. Geiger and M. I. Budyko for pioneering this path is properly acknowledged.

The elements of the radiation balance and their measurement (78 pp.) and the water balance with due emphasis on evaporative phenomena (43 pp.) occupy almost half of the substantive text. That the role of microprocesses through wind, turbulence, and diffusion (30 pp.) is properly stressed is a welcome departure from the treatment accorded this topic in most English language books.

Perhaps a bit too much emphasis has been placed on zonal averages of climatic elements. They give a very fictitious picture, and lead one to underestimate the extraordinary influence of the distribution of land, water, and mountains in climatogenesis. Recent numerical simulation of climates from models of the general circulation of the atmosphere is not mentioned. Strangely, this term has been essentially banished to the last page.

A long chapter (32 pp.) on paleoclimates and theories of climatic change attempts to sift the many ideas that have been advanced in this thoroughly confused field. Here the author had to abandon the quantitative approach, which otherwise prevails in the book, but he gives a very good account of the—mostly unsolved—problems.

The book, which covers only selected areas of the field, will make a very fine text for senior and incipient graduate students for a one semester course. It will also serve as a good modern reference for workers in the various fields of ecology who have an interest in climate.

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Studies in Anthropological Method

Henry A. Murray has held that the life history is one of the building blocks of a science of man. Eleven years ago Murray made a statement that is still pertinent: "The truth is that until very recently the study of lives—the only possible way of obtaining the granite blocks of data on which to build a science of human nature—has generally been depreciated in academic circles as an undertaking to which no true scientist would commit himself." For those who share Murray's view and for those who are interested in the contributions of the life history as a method of investigation, this small book, **The Life History in Anthropological Science** (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York, 1965. 94 pp., $1.50), by L. L. Langness, is a valuable contribution.

Langness defines the life history as ". . . an extensive record of a person's life as it is reported either by the person himself or by others or both, and whether it is written or in interviews or both" (pp. 4 and 5). In systematically examining this method, the author reviews the history of the use of the life history in three periods: up to 1925; from 1925 to 1944; and from 1945 to the present. The bibliography of biographical materials for these periods is most impressive and an invaluable resource.

The remainder of the book deals with the utility, acquisition, and meaning of the biographical method.

The contributions of the life history to the following important problems are systematically covered: an understanding of culture and the idiosyncratic; an individual's perspective on deviance; cultural structure as viewed by the people themselves; culture change and the role of the leader; personality studies in the culture and personality tradition; role analysis; factors of chance and accident in life experience; value studies; and the socialization process. The author also carefully examines the problems of collecting field data. The problems of rapport, language, interviewing, reliability, sampling, taking and recording notes, and interpretation are briefly but adequately discussed.

For the sake of improvements in the biographical method, Langness emphasizes the need for greater sophistication in interpretation and analysis, and the need for greater accuracy.

This is a most useful book. I want to add one thought about the life history method: when the life history is used systematically as a part of a larger set of investigative tools—for example, surveys and controlled experiments—for understanding a given problem, then the hypothesis elaborating function of the life history is vastly multiplied. In my view, it is this relative lack of making the life history an integral part of a larger set of investigative models that has seriously hindered the maximum use of this important but neglected method.

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Culicidology

On a worldwide basis, the family Culicidae (the mosquitoes) is probably the most thoroughly studied suprageneric taxon among the insects. The role of mosquitoes as pests and as vectors of diseases of man and other animals has stimulated extensive research activities not only in control techniques, but also in systematics, zoogeography, and all phases of biology. N. V. Dobrotworsky has culminated 13 years of research with a comprehensive treatment of the mosquito fauna of Victoria, a state in the southeast corner of Australia. His book, **The Mosquitoes of Victoria (Diptera, Culicidae)** [Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Australia; Cambridge University Press, New York, 1965. 243 pp., $18], is the first publication to consider all 69 mosquito species in the state. Only four species of the genus *Anopheles* are found in Victoria, and only one of these can be regarded as a potential vector of malaria. The fauna is dominated by members of the genus *Aedes*, which encompasses more than half the known species; this genus is followed in importance by the genera *Culex, Culiseta, Mansonia, Tripteroides*, and *Aedeomyia*. Seven bird-pox viruses have been recovered from mosquitoes collected in Victoria, and Murray Valley encephalitis, a disease suspected of being transmitted by mosquitoes, has been recorded on several occasions from the northwestern part of the state. Myxomatosis, a virus disease introduced to control rabbits, is mechanically transmitted by a number of mosquito species in Victoria.