

pass; it also presupposes close dependence between these stages and the population types. Although valid on a macroscale, not all the empirical evidence supports the theory. Despite the strong emphasis on the cultural variables and evident historical overtones, the study accepts the ideas of geographical neo-determinism of the physical conditioning of human endeavor.

The volume is the first of a new series of geographical studies published by Prentice-Hall under the editorship of Norton Ginsburg; it is hoped that other studies of similar nature will contribute additional humanistic flavor to the examination of economic postulates of the modern science of geography and serve as a link with many fields of social science.

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Eskimo Life

In this volume, **The Nunamiut Eskimos: Hunters of Caribou** (Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1965. 400 pp., \$8.50), Nicholas J. Gubser presents a straightforward description

of the Nunamiut Eskimos of inland Arctic Alaska. One cannot but be impressed with Gubser's wide acquaintance with the details of their lives and his appreciation of the problems posed by their environment. The monograph ranges through the standard categories of ethnographic reports—history, language, economic activities, social organization, values, and world outlook. In spite of his balanced and knowledgeable handling of his material, I feel that the author just misses the full potential of the rich data to contribute either to social science or to glimpse the "soul" of the Eskimo. Although the study clearly adds to our knowledge of an ethnic group about which relatively little is known, the presentation is essentially descriptive, with little attempt to derive generalizations about behavior or to probe the value of various theoretical approaches. For example, Gubser tells us that the introduction of the gun resulted in a decline in cooperative hunting patterns, but does not push beyond to explore the ramifications of this event with respect to other aspects of social organization and values. Also, the fine details of the belief system of these Eskimos are presented without examining their functional relationship to

other aspects of their mode of life. There is an excellent chapter on "The world of nature" of the Nunamiut that cries for an ecological treatment, but again the author stops short of integrative efforts.

There is another aspect of this study that I would like to note. Gubser describes the past and present of these people; about their future he is noticeably silent. Where are the Nunamiut heading? What are their aspirations? How do their young people feel? How do they see their future? What are the major social changes they are experiencing, and how do they react to these? At times I felt that the picture of the Nunamiut was frozen, with little sense of change or tension. The book ends with an anticlimactic chapter entitled "The caribou."

In concluding this review, however, I do want to reiterate my initial statement that the reader comes away from this volume with the feeling that he has learned a great deal of the raw material of Eskimo life, material that was meticulously gathered and presented in a readable manner.

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BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

Russian Contributions on Brain and Behavior

Josef Brožek

The three volumes under consideration in this review constitute a valuable contribution to the history of Russian scientific thought and accomplishment. Ivan M. Sechenov's **Reflexes of the Brain** (M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1965. 149 pp., \$5) is an impressive though largely programmatic formulation of a neurophysiological psychology. His **Autobiographical Notes** (American Institute of Biological Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1965. 174 pp.,

\$4), translated by Kristan Hanes, provides a unique, personalized account of the Russian scientific scene in the second part of the 19th century. Kh. S. Koshtoyants' **Essays On The History of Physiology in Russia** (American Institute of Biological Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1964. 321 pp., \$4), translated by David P. Boder, Kristan Hanes, and Natalie O'Brien, is a systematic presentation.

It has been said that the continuing

lack of adequate working knowledge of Russian on the part of the American scientific community is replacing the politically imposed curtain of yesteryear with a one-way viewing screen today: open to the West, all but impenetrable in the Eastward direction. In these days when the Soviet scientific output is steadily increasing both in volume and significance, the lack of a ready access to this body of literature constitutes a handicap and a potential threat. The difficulties in the East-West flow of scientific information are not new. They are more serious today.

Sechenov's work provides a dramatic documentation of the lag in the transmission of scientific information. His far-seeing essay "Reflexes of the Brain" was published, as a journal article, in 1863. It was the hundredth anniversary of that event which, eventually, resulted in the publication of this work in America, 102 years after its publication

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