

a little to fit Drake into the Baconian-Whig mold—his therapeutics, for example, is more traditional than otherwise—in general they have succeeded in buttressing their perceptive introductory essays through the selections printed, and they have been particularly successful in their stated purpose of presenting Drake as a representative figure of his time rather than as a hero struggling for individual success.

It is perhaps unfortunate that so many of Drake's writings were originally lectures. To modern readers' eyes, they suffer from the oratorical style of the 19th century, which could inflate a one-sentence thought into a full page of varied allusion and metaphor. Drake's largely descriptive scientific publications are written in a more direct and simpler style.

Finally, it is worth noting that some of the selections are from hitherto unpublished manuscripts, and that the book concludes with a comprehensive bibliography of Drake's writings.

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Prehistory

The Archaeology of Early Man. J. M. COLES and E. S. HIGGS. Praeger, New York, 1969. 456 pp., illus. \$16.

General summaries of man's cultural development over the past two to three million years are not numerous. The sheer scope of the topic, the obscurity of the sources where many of the basic data are recorded, and the frequently conflicting interpretations of these data by regional specialists have all contributed to the paucity of useful syntheses and summaries. For this reason, Coles and Higgs have done a real service for those who are interested in prehistory in presenting this volume that summarizes the archeological evidence from the earliest recognized tools to the beginning of food production. The authors have achieved a genuine success in bringing together a wealth of data into a thoroughly competent summary of our knowledge at the present time.

The layman or nonspecialist will find this book hard going. The text is often heavy with detailed description of stratigraphic sections and lithic artifacts, and the numerous drawings, although well executed, may tend toward monotonous repetition to the uninitiated. These details that may deflect

the casual reader are the strength of the book to the student of prehistory, however. One suspects that the major market for the book will be as a text for advanced undergraduate courses on world prehistory. A better text is not available.

Geography and time provide the major structure for the organization of the data. After a general introduction containing a discussion of some of the basic methods of prehistory, the book is arranged according to four main geographic areas: Africa, Europe, Asia, and the New World. Each of these areas is in turn divided into several regions, and for each region the more significant data are summarized, beginning with the earliest tools and ending with the most recent known Paleolithic materials. These summaries are then followed by detailed descriptions of the most important sites in the region, again arranged chronologically from early to late. Although the book deals with the evidence on a worldwide basis, the major emphasis is on Africa, Europe, and the Near East, reflecting not only the fact that more work on prehistory has been done there than in other parts of the world (except for North America) but also that the record of human occupation in this area is longer, at least so far as is now known. In general, the Americas are given only cursory treatment, and this section should probably have been omitted.

As must be expected in any summary of this magnitude, there are many details of interpretation with which one might quarrel, and, indeed, perhaps few regional specialists will truly be satisfied with the summaries of their areas. Most of the disagreements, however, either will reflect a different emphasis or will be based on knowledge recently acquired and not available to Coles and Higgs. The latter is certainly the case in their summary of the Egyptian Paleolithic. The new data obtained as a consequence of the salvage archeology done in the Aswan Reservoir and the subsequent work along the Nile have drastically altered our concepts of that area.

A more basic criticism of the book can be directed at the absence of some features that would have made it both more useful as a reference and more readable as a text. The absence of profile drawings, either to portray schematically the regional stratigraphic sequence or to show in detail the units described at the more significant sites,

is particularly puzzling. Many of the long and often tedious descriptions of these deposits could have been greatly clarified or even reduced in length had profile drawings been included. A similar question is raised by the absence of charts to summarize the chronological positions of the key localities in each region. Such charts would have greatly facilitated the reader's effort to visualize the time relationship between various levels in some sites, particularly in the more complex areas such as Western Europe. The book is also curiously deficient in references, in spite of the nearly eight pages in the bibliography. For the most part, the major sites are referenced by a single entry, the most important publication about the site. In some instances, however, the authors allude to different interpretations or new data which cannot be obtained from these initial references, and to track down some of the uncited material would require a considerable search of the literature. One suspects that these minor deficiencies are due largely to editorial policy at the publishers'. Presumably, more extensive bibliographic data and the inclusion of correlation charts would lend a more technical atmosphere to the book and thus make it less attractive to the general reader.

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Airborne Pathogens

An Introduction to Experimental Aerobiology. ROBERT L. DIMMICK, ANN B. AKERS, ROBERT J. HECKLY, and H. WOLOCHOW, Eds. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1969. xviii, 494 pp., illus. \$23.95.

This is a worthwhile and timely addition to the Environmental Science and Technology series of books devoted to research on the quality of the environment and the methods for its conservation.

Too few people today appreciate the importance of the microbial world in maintaining the steady state in such component parts of the ecosystem as the air, soil, and water. The word "aerobiology" in its broadest definition refers to all relationships between the atmosphere and living beings. But this book is restricted to experimental laboratory studies on possible disease-producing airborne bacteria, fungi, and viruses