

orbits of both visual and spectroscopic systems, the authority for each set of elements being given, with a reference to the original publication.

The extensive double star surveys in both hemispheres have provided material for statistical discussion much more complete than when the first edition was published. It must have been with considerable satisfaction that Dr. Aitken was able to repeat without essential alteration the general summary given in the first edition of the more important conclusions to be drawn from the statistical material. One conclusion is of particular interest in connexion with the origin of binary systems: that there is an unbroken progression of series of orbits from systems with a period of less than a day, revolving about each other

almost in contact in circular orbits to systems with periods of hundreds or thousands of years, moving in highly eccentric orbits with axes many hundreds of times the distance of the earth from the sun. The inference is that a common origin must be sought for all binary systems, and that no theory yet advanced to account for the origin and subsequent development of binary systems can be regarded as satisfactory. Down to the magnitude limit of Aitken's survey, about one star in eighteen is seen as a visual binary with the 36-inch telescope; of the naked eye stars, about one star in seven is a spectroscopic binary. The properties of binary systems is thus so high that the formulation of a satisfactory theory of their origin is one of the most important unsolved problems of cosmogony.

Short Notices

Archæology and Ethnology

The Folklore of Morocco

By Dr. Françoise Legey. Translated from the French by Lucy Hotz. Pp. 277+25 plates. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1935.) 12s. 6d. net.

MOROCCAN folklore, as Dr. Westermarck has shown us, is essentially a composite product. A veneer of the Moslem creed overlies a solid body of Berber magical practice and belief, in which survivals from the old Roman province are embedded like plums in a pudding. The genie, whether good or bad, common to the whole Moslem world, claims attention equally with the mysterious *baraka*, the mystic individual power of the animate and inanimate world, which is characteristic of Morocco, while in the ever-present fear of the evil eye the inhabitants affirm their Mediterranean descent.

This composite character of Moroccan belief is well illustrated in the material collected by Mme. Legey during the thirteen years of her acquaintance with Morocco, although she purposely refrains from comment on comparable beliefs and the like elsewhere. As a medical officer of the French administration, her duties and her sex have given her access to sources of information from which the ordinary observer is barred. Her record of the beliefs and practices connected with disease and its treatment and the feminine province in matters affecting birth, infancy, adolescence, marriage and its ceremonial, will be found especially valuable.

Although Mme. Legey covers the whole field of belief from ideas relating to the creation and character of the cosmos to the reverence paid to the deceased holy man at his burial-place, her contribution to the subject is most considerable in medical matters and in what is specifically the woman's world. The index, unfortunately, is not adequate to the subject-matter.

The Hill Bhūiyās of Ōrissā: with Comparative Notes on the Plains Bhūiyās

By Sarat Chandra Roy. Pp. v+320+xxxviii+17 plates. (Ranchi: *Man in India* Office, 1935.) 8 rupees.

THIS is the fifth volume in a series of monographs on the aboriginal tribes of India, which Sarat Chandra Roy has in course of preparation, on a foundation of twenty-five years experience of the peoples of the central hill belt. The present volume is concerned with one of the few tribes which show in their different branches all the various stages of evolution from the wild tribes of the hills to the thoroughly Hinduised *zamindars* of the plains, some of whom have now progressed so far as to claim Rajput or Kshatriya descent. They are distributed widely over half a dozen provinces—Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Chota Nagpur, Assam, the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Madras. Here, however, the author deals mainly with the hill tribes who, as he notes, are correctly classified in the last census as Kolarian. Culturally, they are Pre-Dravidian.

Biology

(1) Living Things: an Introduction to Biology

By Richard Palmer. Pp. 400. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1935.) 7s. 6d. net.

(2) The World of Nature

By H. C. Knapp-Fisher. Pp. iv+512. (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1935.) 6s. net.

(1) IN being a true biology, "Living Things" makes a definite claim to freshness, and thus commands the attention of teachers. Animals and plants are in close conjunction with each other, and the author makes no attempt to segregate them artificially. Of course, this is how they should be treated: