

who found that reduction of the prosthetic group by alanin (which stops as soon as the bound prosthetic group is reduced because the reduction product sticks to the protein) proceeds only until one mol per 100,000 gm. of the (not quite pure) protein has reacted.

<sup>1</sup> Broda, E. E., Goodeve, C. F., and Lythgoe, R. J., *J. Physiol.*, **98**, 397 (1940).

<sup>2</sup> Kellin, D., and Mann, T., *NATURE*, **143**, 23 (1939).

<sup>3</sup> Kellin, D., and Mann, T., *Biochem. J.*, **34**, 1163 (1940).

<sup>4</sup> Green, D. E., "The Mechanism of Biological Oxidations" (Cambridge, 1940), p. 124.

<sup>5</sup> Pedersen, K. O., and Heidelberger M., *J. Gen. Physiol.*, **19**, 95 (1935).

<sup>6</sup> Dalton, H. R., and Nelson, J. M., *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **61**, 2469 (1939).

<sup>7</sup> cf. Kubowitz, F., *Biochem. Z.*, **299**, 51 (1938).

<sup>8</sup> Lovell-Janison, P. L., and Nelson, J. M., *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **62**, 1409 (1940).

<sup>9</sup> Straub, F. B., *Biochem. J.*, **33**, 787 (1939).

<sup>10</sup> Corran, H. S., Dewan, J. G., Gordon, A. H., and Green, D. E., *Biochem. J.*, **33**, 1694 (1939).

<sup>11</sup> Philpot, J. St. L., *Biochem. J.*, **33**, 1707 (1939).

<sup>12</sup> Sumner, J. B., and Dounce, A. L., *J. Biol. Chem.*, **127**, 439 (1939).

<sup>13</sup> cf. Svedberg, Th., and Pedersen, K. O., "The Ultracentrifuge", Oxford University Press (1940).

<sup>14</sup> See "containing weights", Cohn, E. J., *Physiol. Rev.*, **5**, 349 (1925).

<sup>15</sup> Warburg, O., and Christian, W., *Biochem. Z.*, **298**, 150 (1938).

<sup>16</sup> Negelein, E., and Brömel, H., *Biochem. Z.*, **300**, 225 (1939).

## ETHNOLOGY OF THE LAU ISLANDS, FIJI

THE great interest held by the Lau islands for the ethnologist lies in the fact that they are situated between Fiji and Tonga, on the border where Melanesia and Polynesia meet. They had been subjected, therefore, to different impacts, both physical and cultural, even before the advent of Western civilization. For this reason the author of a recent paper\* chose a group of islands in southern Lau which owing to its isolation and lack of valuable natural resources had been left comparatively untouched by Western influences, and on one of these, Kambara, she lived for five months making an intensive study of its culture. Owing to lack of time she was unable to devote much attention to material culture and concentrated rather on the social system as being more evanescent.

After a short account of the physical types and the geography of the island group, including a census of the chief village of Kambara, the author gives a full description of the social organization of the people. This is very complicated owing to the different influences that have impinged on the islands, but she has worked out the different social groups. The largest unit, the phratry, consists of groups of clans with the same mythical ancestor or group of ancestors. The clans are divided into sub-clans and these again into families or households. Through all these runs a deep-seated and elaborate system of rank; not only each phratry, clan, sub-

\*Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Bulletin 162: "Southern Lau Fiji: an Ethnography." By Laura Thompson. Pp. iii + 228 + 5 pl. (Honolulu, 1940).

clan, family and individual, but also each village and chiefdom holds a different rank in the scheme. This is all clearly set out, and in subsequent sections marriage and relationship are discussed, followed by an account of the ceremonial usages and the economic life and material culture of the islands. The author also found time to excavate some archaeological sites, principally fortresses on the various islands.

In her conclusion the author suggests that Lauan culture consists of three complexes: that of its own aboriginal (Melanesian) inhabitants, which is similar to that of the low Fijian culture of western Viti Levu. Some three hundred years ago, according to genealogies and tradition, a group of immigrants from eastern Viti Levu introduced a highly organized culture of a Polynesian type with a complicated system of rank, and they also increased production and developed industry to a high degree. The third impact came from the west with Tongan contact in the late "prehistoric" period. Its outstanding contributions were the concept of divine chieftainship with attendant ceremonial, of kava drinking and dancing, while on the material side came the introduction of the western Polynesian oval house and the technique of pasting tapa into long sheets. Thus Lauan culture is truly marginal and presents a unique fusion of Melanesian and early and late Polynesian complexes.

The bulletin is illustrated by maps, tables and photographs, and contains a bibliography and complete index.

## SOUTH-EASTERN UNION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

### ANNUAL CONGRESS

THE South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies has, for the second time, been obliged to curtail its annual congress to a single day of sessions and excursions; this was held at Kingston-upon-Thames on July 26.

A representative assembly to transact the business of the seventy constituent societies was held during the forenoon, in the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. Dr. W. E. St. Lawrence Finny, who has been mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston on

fewer than seven times, was elected president for 1941-42; in recent years he has served the Union as president of the Archaeological Section.

"The Church of the Saxon Coronations at Kingston" was the title of Dr. Finny's presidential address. He described the ancient form of the Coronation Service, tracing its origin to the Court of Charlemagne, and showed lantern slides of such evidence as now exists of the church in which the Saxon kings must have been crowned. At Kingston the principal