

the animals. To them any break with the familiar pattern of their lives spelt insecurity and danger, and they reacted accordingly.

It will be a very long time before a book as sympathetic to wild life as this (yet without sentimentality or anthropomorphism), and at the same time so readable, is likely to appear. The only criticism I have to make is that the provision of a map would have helped readers to follow the Crislers' journeys and references to Alaskan place-names connected with their work.

R. W. HAYMAN

## PREHISTORY OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

### Inyanga

*Prehistoric Settlements in Southern Rhodesia.* By Roger Summers. With contributions by H. B. S. Cooke, P. V. Tobias, H. Wild, J. F. Schofield and K. R. Robinson. Pp. xviii + 336 + 22 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1958. Published for the Inyanga Research Fund.) 50s. net.

ROGER SUMMERS and his collaborators here describe the fruit of six months field-work under the auspices of the Inyanga Research Fund during 1949-51. Their object was to discover the age and purpose of the stone-walled ruins and terraces that cover between two and three thousand square miles on the Inyanga Highlands of Southern Rhodesia. Summers and his co-workers found that the walled settlements, now in ruin, were built by a prehistoric Iron Age community that displaced the Stone Age inhabitants of Inyanga apparently between the seventh and fourteenth centuries A.D. The reader may ask why we use terms like 'Stone Age' and 'prehistoric' for such recent times, but it must be remembered that, until the nineteenth century, most of Africa south of the Sahara either remained untouched by the great civilizing events that brought writing to the Mediterranean world, or reflected them in part only.

Our previous knowledge of the ruins depended on a few short papers. Now Roger Summers has given us a full monograph, while specialists contribute the latter half of the book on other aspects of the archaeology, botany, surface geology, animal and human palaeontology of the area. Their enthusiasm carried them beyond the limits of the Iron Age, down into Stone Age depths, for K. R. Robinson contributes a chapter on people who lived in Inyanga long before the Iron Age stone-wall builders arrived there.

Summers's account of the Iron Age at Inyanga is based on no less than thirty-six excavations within an area of 800 square miles. I congratulate him on achieving the aims of the sponsoring Fund, and presenting such an interesting account of the framework of the thriving population that based its way of life on the terraces, trackways, water furrows, stone buildings and pottery it left in this region. Here, too, is an account of the metal-producing techniques that supplied the spears, axes, hoes and knives necessary to the economy and its defence; and also the east coast trade that for centuries poured millions of glass beads and other objects into African Iron Age communities. These beads give some indication of absolute dating, as J. F. Schofield's valuable chapter suggests; but in general these things have an age-range too wide for any but the broadest dating.

P. V. Tobias interprets the two Iron Age skeletal remains as representing a Negro and a Boskopoid-Negro hybrid, anatomical characters found in the present-day Bantu-speaking population in Rhodesia. There may be little doubt that the Iron Age remains in Inyanga are due to their ancestors, and not to any exotic people.

Summers distinguishes two main Iron Age cultures in Inyanga. The earlier cultures may have flourished between the seventh and eighth centuries A.D., but could be as late as the fourteenth century A.D. The scarcity of foreign imports supports the earlier date; indeed, accurate radiocarbon age estimation may show it to be even earlier. Recent radiocarbon dates for Iron Age settlements in Northern Rhodesia suggest that metal-producing farmers may have arrived in the area centuries earlier than our previous conjectural dating based mainly on imported beads.

The later cultures produced the astonishing terraces, stone-lined pits, roadways and water-channels which are such striking features of the Inyanga landscape, as aerial photographs in the book show. These Iron Age people had a thorough grasp of soil conservation, for they made miles of contoured terraces for grain fields and built massive stone walls across gullies to stop soil erosion.

Summers gives a study of the environmental background to Iron Age life, but the reconstruction of climatic change on the basis of erosion and deposition is considered uncertain in view of recent South African research which, in my opinion, has done much to disprove the traditional hypotheses of this kind. Few specialists would accept a chronology based on the hypothetical climatic changes Summers proposes in his concluding chapters.

The archaeological remains described in this book are as impressive as Zimbabwe, but it is unfortunate that Summers omits clear comparison with that well-known centre and its associated settlements. I hope he will give us a third book relating Inyanga and Zimbabwe to each other and to all other Iron Age remains in Rhodesia that interest both the archaeologist and the general observer of African achievement in the past.

The book reaches the usual high standards of the Cambridge University Press; the line drawings are excellent, but the photographs could have been improved by 'bleeding' the blocks for reproduction.

REVIL MASON

## EVOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL READER

### Nature and Man's Fate

By Prof. Garrett Hardin. Pp. xii + 375. (New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1959.) 6 dollars.

IN their introductory remarks the publishers of Prof. Hardin's book on evolutionary theory and the course of human evolution describe it as "challenging", "provocative" and "controversial". Even though words of this kind have been used so much that they have lost a great deal of their original force, there is little doubt that "Nature and Man's Fate" will bring pleasure to all those who prefer to see the truth set down in terms of black and white.

The plan of the book is on orthodox lines. The emergence of the theory of evolution as set out by Charles Darwin and A. R. Wallace is preceded by accounts of earlier theories and the intellectual and