

## Book Reviews

### EASTERN SIOUX

#### The Mystic Lake Sioux

Sociology of the Mdewakantonwan Santee. By Ruth Landes. Pp. x+224. (University of Wisconsin Press: Madison and London, November 1968.) \$7.50.

PERHAPS a focal area in the Indian history of movement, migration and warfare, was Wisconsin and Minnesota between the Mississippi River and Lake Superior. When first mentioned in 1632 by the Jesuits, the Dakota-speaking Sioux occupied the Lake Superior country of Northern Wisconsin. For a century they were amicably disposed towards the newly arrived Ojibwa (Chippewa), the latter following the fortunes of the French fur trade westwards. During the next century, culminating in the Prairie du Chieu Treaty of 1825, the Sioux and Ojibwa were in a chronic state of war with each other. The prime cause was the systematic expansion of French fur trade westward and into the eastern Sioux territory on the Mississippi River. Upon losing their major economy as middlemen, the Ojibwa deserted their Lake Superior conifer forest country for the Sioux territory. The latter was a forty mile wide belt of deciduous forest on the edge of the prairie which was rich in fur bearing animals. Whereas the Teton and Yankton Sioux had moved westward to the Dakotas, taking up the horse and buffalo culture, Santee Sioux remained in the Mississippi region and continued their fur trapping and deer hunting on foot. With the establishment of Fort Snelling and the 1825 treaty, the Sioux and Ojibwa became stalemated in this rich fur bearing region. The competing forces of traders, missionaries and settlers further reduced the independence of the Sioux until the 1862 uprising. Following this, all eastern Sioux were transported to the Dakotas or Nebraska. Later, a few returned to take up residence at their present location on Prairie Island near Red Wing, Minnesota.

Fieldwork for the study under review was done by the author in 1935. As well as contemporary information, she was able, by using elderly informants, to obtain reminiscences from the latter nineteenth century period. The quality of the book is extraordinarily uneven.

In discussing political organization the author refers to and quotes liberally from Samuel Pond's account of the 1830s.

The chief Shakopee, who was "nearly a great man", was "also very mean, narrow and excitable; falsehood and truth were alike to him". Little Crow, "having his father's evil temper, was restless and mischievous for lack of occupation". Inyangmani "was intelligent . . . but could not or would not speak in public to the people when they were excited and turbulent. He was chief in name but not in fact, for while he was silent, others ruled the multitude" and Inkpaduta was chief of an outlaw band. This material carrying biases from its contemporary non-

Indian sources constitutes neither ethnography nor analysis.

An extreme example of this reminiscence type history is that of the viking type long-oared boat complete with shields, horned headpieces and spears. Considering the long period of acculturation to which the people have been exposed, surely to present this story as genuine myth is facetious.

There is a good discussion of kinship and marriage. It is a typical bifurcate merging system in which parallel relatives are classed as siblings (Fa=Fa Bro, mo=mo Sis; hence children of ego's terminological parents are his siblings). The cross relatives of the ascending generation (Fa sis and mo Bro) are treated with respect, while children of these (cross cousins) are joked with and teased. Affinal relatives are merged with the latter category. With cross cousins and, to an extent, with siblings-in-law as well, verbal railery, public teasing and retaliatory eat-all feasts are both dramatic and significant. Ritual "overcoming", both verbally and sexually, between persons of a non parallel-kin category symbolizes the dual system. Inhospitability and stinginess are equated with impotence and cowardice. Failure in a public contest requires payment. The eat-all feast in which quantities of indigestible bear fat are mixed with rice is virtually impossible to "overcome" without the aid of kinsmen. Likewise the forcible putting on of opposite-sexed clothing at a dance equates the wearer with the dreaded and exiled transvestite. This part is the clearest depiction of the meaning of joking and teasing in the ethnographic literature, and is a contribution.

In general, however, the promise of a monograph of the Eastern Sioux is not met. The ecology and warfare, both of which were so ably analysed for the neighbouring Ojibwa by Hickerson in 1962, remain virtually unexplained. Historically the same is true for the discussions of political and social life.

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### SCIENCE OF BEHAVIOUR

#### Assessment in Clinical Psychology

By C. E. Gathercole. (Penguin Education X14. Penguin Science of Behaviour.) Pp. 174. (Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1968.) 6s.

#### Disorders of Memory and Learning

By George A. Talland. (Penguin Education X35. Penguin Science of Behaviour.) Pp. 176. (Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1968.) 6s.

#### Psychometric Assessment of the Individual Child

By Douglass R. Savage. (Penguin Education X15. Penguin Science of Behaviour.) Pp. 116. (Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1968.) 6s.

#### The Beginnings of Modern Psychology

By W. M. O'Neil. (Penguin Education X13. Penguin Science of Behaviour.) Pp. 156. (Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1968.) 6s.

THESE four books are among the first of a new series published by Penguin Books entitled "Penguin Science of Behaviour". This series will deal with a number of areas of psychology and will consist of short texts: some deal with standard topics and others with new contributions to the subject. The intention is to present a wider range of topics and viewpoints than is found in the normal introductory courses.

Two of these texts, *Assessment in Clinical Psychology* by C. E. Gathercole and *Disorders of Memory and Learning*, written by G. A. Talland shortly before his death, belong to the subsection of the series dealing with "Clinical Psychology" edited by G. A. Foulds. *Psychometric Assessment of the Individual Child* by D. R. Savage forms part of the series "Developmental Psychology" edited by