

an eastward route. Mr. Spence recognises that the people of south-eastern Asia influenced those of tropical America; but he regards this connexion as independent.

The author is indiscriminate in his acceptance of anything that appears to support his views. Many of his arguments are unconvincing, such as the identity of the names Cleito with Coatlicue and of Atlas with Uitzilopochtli. He also accepts newspaper statements, which, though often useful as a clue, are not scientific evidence. Thus he remarks that the discovery in August of last year of a  $2\frac{1}{4}$  mile rise in the floor of the South Atlantic in the course of the previous twenty-five years should make "the scoffer" revise his belief in the stability of the ocean beds; but the author's acceptance of this "mare's nest" may tend to make his readers scoff at a theory which accepts such statements without troubling to confirm them or even awaiting their contradiction.

*L'Homme préhistorique dans l'Europe centrale: Primeval Man in Central Europe.* By Prof. Dr. P. Goessler. Pp. 134 + 40 plates. (Stuttgart: Franckh'sche Verlagshandlung, 1924.) n.p.

In this volume Prof. Goessler, Director of the State Museum of Antiquities in Stuttgart, has published a series of forty plates with descriptive letterpress, each dealing with a type of prehistoric man or of prehistoric culture, the type skull being figured with characteristic associated implements, ornaments, etc. The series begins with Heidelberg man and ends with the races of Central Europe of the present day. Students will appreciate the special attention which is given to the archæology of south-east Germany. The author has not, however, confined himself to Central Europe, and in the palæolithic age in particular the skeletal remains of early man from France and Britain as well as Rhodesian man are duly noted; but Piltdown man obtains no more than an incidental mention in connexion with the Galley Hill skull. In later periods, especially the bronze and iron ages, while the place of origin of German finds is, for the most part, carefully noted, in the case of many of the objects figured from other sources, this information is not given at all or only vaguely. The text is in German, French, and English, but the last-named is so bad as to be unintelligible at times without the original German, and shows almost complete ignorance of English technical nomenclature.

*Man before History: a Short Account of Prehistoric Times.* By Mary E. Boyle. Pp. 128 + 8 plates. (London, Calcutta and Sydney: G. G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 2s.

Of the total number of pages in Miss Boyle's little book, one hundred deal with the palæolithic period proper. The remaining 28 pages cover the Azilian, the Neolithic, the lake villages, the arts and crafts of the neolithic age, and the beginning of writing. This may seem a little out of proportion, but as her book is written for young people, her scale of treatment

may be regarded as justifiable, especially as in this comparatively restricted space she has been able to indicate, at any rate in outline, the more prominent characteristics of the culture of the later period. She has wisely paid particular attention to the art of prehistoric man. Indeed, there is no book of this size and type which contains so many excellent reproductions of the cave paintings and the carvings as have been given by Miss Boyle. The later and less well-known art of Spain also receives due attention. Miss Boyle tells her story in a straightforward manner which is very much to the point. Within its limits this is an admirable little book and one of the best of its kind.

*The Evolution of Man: Essays.* By Dr. G. Elliot Smith. Pp. viii + 159. (London: Oxford University Press, 1924.) 8s. 6d. net.

In this volume Prof. Elliot Smith has reprinted three addresses—his presidential address to Section H at the Dundee meeting of the British Association in 1912, a paper presented to the British Academy in 1916, and a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution in the current year. Each deals with some one aspect of man's evolution, with particular reference to the specifically human attributes which evolve *pari passu* with the development of the brain. To them he has added a foreword in which he demonstrates with diagrams a tentative scheme of the relationships of the different genera, species, and races of the human family and a similar scheme of the relationship of the order of primates. In the former of these he puts forward what are undoubtedly very suggestive views on the problems presented by Eoanthropus and Rhodesian man. Prof. Elliot Smith has republished these lectures to meet the need for a consistent and coherent account of the essential factors in the evolution of man, pending the preparation of a more elaborate text-book, which, it is needless to say, will be heartily welcomed by all who are interested in this subject.

*Origins in Place Names.* By An Ignorant Student. VI.: *Life*. Pp. 7. (London: Privately printed at the Chiswick Press, 1924.) n.p.

ALTHOUGH numbered the sixth in the series, this is the fourth in order of publication of the pamphlets in which "An Ignorant Student" discusses the origin of place-names from various aspects. In this case his object is to link up place-names with the order of universal law by showing that they evolve logically from a conception of life as functional and the result of an arrangement and grouping of individual units. Just as from the leaf of a tree certain deductions can be drawn, it is possible to deduce from language, which is an expression of life, the country in which it grew and, on careful analysis, to arrive at the elements of which it is composed. The author's conclusion, therefore, is that among the earliest forms of language were the words, which we now call place-names, describing and locating the homes of the people who used them. This, if somewhat obvious, is no doubt true, provided a reservation is made in favour of the priority of certain other classes of words dealing with the personality and primary needs, such as food.