

Supplement to NATURE

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Our Bookshelf.

Human Evolution.

Éléments de sociologie : textes choisis et ordonnés.
Par Prof. C. Bouglé et J. Raffault. (Publications du Centre de Documentation sociale.)
Pp. viii + 506. (Paris : Félix Alcan, 1926.)
30 francs.

A COLLECTION of extracts such as MM. Bouglé and Raffault have compiled has its manifest uses as a source book and work of reference. This, however, has not been the primary or even the main object of its preparation, although the course of the Ecoles Normales has been followed in the chief features of its framework. It is intended as a manifesto and reply to those who maintain the unsuitability of sociology as a subject of instruction on the ground that it is too young a science to have become sufficiently systematised and adequately provided with principles of general application to afford a suitable discipline. The compilers desire to refute this criticism by submitting to the reader what sociological writers have actually said, instead of entering into abstract argument. In England, perhaps, we have been fortunate: any controversy on this point being almost forgotten owing to an early acceptance of the evolutionary principle in its application to sociological data. Early exuberance, it is true, has had to be overcome, but the scientific attitude remains. This, however, does not affect the fact that for English readers, equally with French or those of any other tongue, this is a stimulating book in which the views of sociologists of to-day, yesterday, or long ago, on specific points arising out of a sociological scheme, may be found in their most characteristic form.

Grundriss der Anthropologie. Von Dr. M. W. Hauschild. Pp. viii + 235. (Berlin : Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1926.) 10.50 gold marks.

THE reviewer, after a perusal of this work, laid it down with the feeling that anthropology has suffered a profound loss by the death of its young author, Dr. Wolfgang Hauschild. In a preface written by his old teacher, Prof. Eugen Fischer, director of the Anthropological Institute of the University of Freiburg, we learn that Dr. Hauschild, after carrying out arduous investigations in Java during 1924, died from malaria on his way home, leaving behind him the manuscript of this work. One suspects that his text was intended to serve as a basis for a systematic course of lectures

on the evolution and structure of human races, and that the condensation of his argument, although expressed in clear, simple German, would have been lightened and expanded by a free use of illustrative examples. It is plain, at least, that this rising anthropologist had addressed himself, not to the dilettante, but to the serious student of his subject.

The book is of particular interest to senior anthropologists, because it reveals the methods which the rising generation of investigators in Germany are applying to the problems of human evolution and of human heredity, and the ideals by which they are moved. Dr. Hauschild at once captures the English reader by ascribing to Darwin the just merit of being the sole author and initiator of the evolutionary movement which now moves thoughtful men in all parts of the world. He gives Mendel his due place—a very high one. The revolution in physical anthropology which Dr. Hauschild evidently anticipated was to arise from a fuller knowledge of the processes which regulate the development and growth of the human body. He has attempted to base his subject on physiological or biological principles, and for this reason has brought to bear on the human body the latest information gleaned from all branches of modern science. We see in this book a young author causing new sciences to leaven old knowledge, and all has been done in a logical, masterly way. We heartily commend this book to every one who wishes to get into touch with the best work now being done in the anthropological laboratories of Germany.

Prehistory.

Préhistoire de la Norvège. Par Haakon Shetelig. (Instituttet for Sammenlignende Kulturforskning. Serie A : Forelesninger, 5.) Pp. vi + 280 + 10 planches. (Oslo : H. Aschehoug and Co.; London : Williams and Norgate, Ltd.; Leipzig : Otto Harrassowitz; Paris : Honoré Champion; Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1926.) 7s. 6d.

DR. SHETELIG, the distinguished Norwegian archaeologist, some four years ago published a review of the state of knowledge of prehistoric Norway at that date. Unfortunately for most readers it was in Norwegian, and the present volume, though written on a slightly different plan, as well as covering a more extended field, will be welcomed by those who wish to make themselves acquainted with the views of this authority on the archaeology