

of his own country and its many problems. In his preface, Dr. Shetelig points out that the conditions, geographical and climatic, as well as the sparse population of early days, give the archæology of Norway a special character and, be it said, a peculiar significance. The salient problems throughout arise from the fact that the most marked characteristic of Norwegian culture is its receptivity and not its power of initiation. Norwegian culture, although individual, is a part of Scandinavian culture as a whole, and this in turn, although also distinctive, is an integral part of the general European culture. The task of the archæologist, therefore, is to analyse the data in such a way as to distinguish the foreign element and mark the modification by which it becomes essentially Norwegian.

The reader will follow with interest the method by which Dr. Shetelig has worked out this theme in tracing the development of Norwegian civilisation from the Maglemose period to the Viking age. In view of the use made of the early rock carvings in supporting the argument for the inheritance of palæolithic culture, as well as in the interests of the chapter on art, it is to be regretted that the book has not been more fully illustrated.

Frühschein der Kultur: Bilder aus Vorgeschichte und Urzeit. Von Prof. Dr. Johannes Ledroit. Pp. ix + 257. (Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder und Co. G.m.b.H., 1926.) 4.80 gold marks.

THIS well-planned little book aims at awakening the interest of the layman, and more especially of school-pupils, in prehistory by a lively and graphic presentation of the main facts. The outstanding features of each chief cultural period from Lower Palæolithic to Roman times are first briefly sketched. An imaginative description of some supposedly typical incidents from the epoch in question is added to fill in the details. We are introduced, for example, to a 'wandering artist' who winters in the cave of some reindeer-hunters and then passes on to another shelter after having adorned his hosts' abode with representations of bisons and other animals. We see the *Urgermanen* from the North Sea raiding the villages of the Michelsberg folk and witness the burial of a chief in a megalithic tomb. A description is given of a bronze age smithy and of the visit of a travelling dealer with copper and tin from England, who, with the aid of his 'slaves,' eventually carries off the smith's beautiful Nordic daughter.

Dr. Ledroit has carefully collected all the scattered scraps of archæological evidence that might help to complete a concrete picture of life in those remote times. There is less evidence of a mastery of the ethnographic data that might be invoked to supplement this inevitably fragmentary record, and a few mistakes have crept in. The bronze-worker may well have used the *cire perdue* process, but it is wrong to make him execute the spiral decoration on the finished casting; the mammoth is said to be a metre taller than existing elephants.

Birds.

- (1) *L'Évolution de l'ornithologie.* Par Dr. M. Boubier. (Nouvelle Collection scientifique.) Pp. v + 308. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1925.) 10 francs.
- (2) *Birds and their Attributes.* By Dr. G. M. Allen. Pp. xiii + 338 + 34 plates. (London, Calcutta and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 10s. 6d. net.
- (3) *Les oiseaux: l'ornithologie et ses bases scientifiques.* Par Dr. M. Boubier. (Encyclopédie scientifique: Bibliothèque de zoologie.) Pp. iv + 305. (Paris: Gaston Doin et Cie., 1926.) 22 francs.
- (4) *Fugle. 2: Lomfugle, Stormfugle, Vandhøns, Tranefugle og Vadefugle.* Ag R. Hørring. (Danmarks Fauna, 30.) Pp. 332. (København: G. E. C. Gads Forlag, 1926.) n.p.

(1) IN the steady stream of books about birds it is pleasant to find one which breaks new ground, as does Dr. Boubier's "L'Évolution de l'ornithologie." In a series of eight chapters he takes up particular aspects of ornithology and traces the gradual growth of knowledge in each branch of the science, marking the stages of development by appeal to the works of the masters. Thus he discusses the knowledge of the European avifauna, the results of explorations and voyages, the study of migration, of taxonomy, anatomy, and palæontology, and the development of systems of classification, and under each head the history is traced succinctly yet with sufficient detail to give a connected picture of progress. In so comprehensive a work omissions are bound to occur, and we note that no English writer on bird migration is mentioned later than Barrington (1772), and that although many and lesser bird-ringing schemes are referred to, the *British Birds* scheme which has been responsible for the marking of some 146,000 birds passes unnoticed.

(2) Dr. Allen's volume is excellent, although it belongs to a very familiar type—an introduction to a general survey of birds, their structure, habits, and human relations. It is outstanding because of the author's familiarity with recent literature, and his knack in selecting a telling example, as in the case of the narrow Atlantic belt which bars the distribution of two sets of terns (p. 155), or the Ceylon telegraph wire which bore an annual crop of mistletoe seedlings (p. 165), or the relation of the extent of a bird's migration to the shape of the egg it lays (p. 177). Of the illustrations the most remarkable are Mr. Bigelow's photographs of the V-shaped flight formations of swans and geese.

(3) In this other work of Dr. Boubier's we have a general treatise on birds, aiming less at the general reader than at the ornithologist who would add a scientific ground-work to his own observations. It is noteworthy for its conciseness, and for the care with which the comparative anatomy of birds is treated. A number of rough but very instructive diagrams illustrate the text.