

It is scarcely necessary to say that Prof. Childe's treatment of his subject matter is thorough and individual. His unrivalled knowledge of the archæology of the Danubian area enables him to speak with authority on the obscure racial or, as he would prefer to put it, cultural group movements at the beginning of his period. He has an interesting if not very conclusive chapter on the races of the Bronze Age; but his most interesting point is his conviction of the persistence of Bronze Age peoples through later periods. It is more than probable that he is correct; but he is no less apt in pointing out that in Britain, at any rate, much research is necessary before a definite conclusion can be reached. Especially is this true of the bearing of folklore on the question.

Decorative Patterns of the Ancient World. By Sir Flinders Petrie. Pp. 17+88 plates. (London: British School of Archæology in Egypt; Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., 1930.)

THIS volume is intended to serve as the first outline of an index to "all the decorative imaginings of mankind", an undertaking indeed of no little magnitude. Here, however, certain limitations are observed. Much sufficiently known already is avoided; the time-series limit is set at A.D. 1000; the examples are drawn only from Europe and western Asia (especially Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Mediterranean), with their links in other lands. Sir Flinders Petrie here touches again on the value of decorative design as presumptive evidence of connexion between the designers, where historic connexion between the designs can be traced, on the ground that purely decorative design has no stimulus of pressure towards use or invention such as that which underlies an essential obviously needed. This principle is illustrated often when designs are brought together, as they are here, arranged under their classes. Among them, perhaps the most striking example is that with which the series opens, a central figure with an attendant pair of lions, wolves, or other animals, one on either side. This is one of the earliest motives of Egypt and Mesopotamia which persists through the ages down to the present day, when it appears as the lion and the unicorn of the Royal Arms and in the supporters of armorial coats.

Biology.

An Introduction to Vertebrate Embryology. By Prof. H. L. Wieman. (McGraw-Hill Publications in the Zoological Sciences.) Pp. xi+411. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1930.) 20s. net.

THERE can be no doubt that the easiest approach to the study of vertebrate anatomy is the development of the embryo and its organogeny. In recent years, in American colleges and universities, there has been a tendency to relegate certain of the initial subjects of the crowded medical curriculum to the two pre-medical years of study, and to combine the teaching of embryology with comparative

anatomy and histology. Thus a wider and more generalised field can be covered than is permissible in human embryology alone. In the book under review, considerable space has been devoted to questions of general development, cytology, and the early development of *Amphioxus* and the frog. Reference is made to some of the more recent work of Spemann, Mangold, and Marx on 'organisms' or embryo-forming materials.

As regards the remainder, the treatment of the development of the chick, pig, and man follows conventional lines and draws for its inspiration upon Lillie's "Development of the Chick" and the "Contributions to Embryology" of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Throughout, it has been the aim of the author to direct attention to the experimental aspects of the subject, and to make the descriptive material of the book complement the work in the laboratory, for which a manual has been prepared and published separately.

The illustrations are not all that might be desired. In the case of those of the development of the human venous system (Figs. 161-163) the differentiation of the components is not made sufficiently clear to aid the student in understanding what is a rather complicated series of steps. It is doubtful, too, whether the substitution of "sudoriparous" for "sudorific" as applied to the human sweat glands is an improvement in terminology.

Histological and Illustrative Methods for Entomologists. By Dr. H. Eltringham. With a Chapter on Mounting Whole Insects, by H. Britten. Pp. xi+139. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1930.) 7s. 6d. net.

IN the space of 140 pages, Dr. Eltringham has been successful in furnishing a concise yet lucid account of the standard methods employed in the study of the anatomy and histology of insects. The initial chapters of the book are devoted to a description of the apparatus and materials required for the cutting and staining of sections. There is a useful chapter on the dissection and preparation of the genitalia, the characters of which are now extensively used by systematists for the differentiation of species. Of not the least importance is the chapter on the mounting of small entire insects, contributed by Mr. H. Britten, who recommends a method which is at once simple, effective, and time-saving.

Every biologist recognises that good illustration is the handmaiden of morphology, and the entomologist with a bias towards anatomy will be encouraged to learn that there are several mechanical aids that can be used in preparing drawings of his subjects that render the lack of a natural artistic ability a matter of minor importance. In teaching structural complexities of individual insect parts, models have a decided value, and the author has shown how simple models can be prepared at very little cost. Useful hints on the colouring of lantern slides and photographs are also supplied for the benefit of those who are called upon to lecture on entomological topics.