

Short Reviews.

Anthropology and Ethnology.

Ethnos: or the Problem of Race considered from a New Point of View. By Sir Arthur Keith. (Today and To-morrow Series.) Pp. 92. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1931.) 2s. 6d. net.

AVOWEDLY and of intention, Sir Arthur Keith in this little book has departed from the tacit understanding among anthropologists that they should not in any way trespass on politics; but, as he says, it is impossible to write about human races without touching upon matters which concern statesmen just as much as anthropologists. In fact, Sir Arthur, in hoping that he may induce politically-minded people to study the problems of race from an anthropological point of view, is doing no more than extend to international affairs that practical application of anthropology for which we have pressed in the administration of the dependent races of the British Empire.

In this essay, Sir Arthur has carried a little further the ideas he put forward in his Huxley Lecture to the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1928 and a subsequent public lecture before the Institute in 1929, and has applied them in principle to the problem of internationalism, in its relation to the future peace of the world. In Sir Arthur's opinion, every nation is a potential race, and a sense of nationality, or patriotism, has been one of the most potent of factors in the evolution of the races of mankind as they exist to-day. As race-consciousness is held to be largely responsible for our present troubles, this conclusion may seem pessimistic in so convinced an evolutionist as Sir Arthur; but he sees two possible solutions in either deracialisation by fusion into one race throughout the world, or a continuance of the evolutionary process through race, but under rational control. While Sir Arthur's views, therefore, are not without some comfort for struggling humanity, his more recent pronouncements suggest the inference that only the federally-minded are to survive.

Matriarchy in the Malay Peninsula and neighbouring Countries. By G. A. de C. de Moubray. Pp. ix + 292. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1931.) 15s. net.

MR. DE MOUBRAY'S book on the matriarchate in the Malay Peninsula illustrates a serious difficulty. Changes are taking place with such rapidity in modern conditions of contact between European and non-European civilisations that it is almost impossible for the inquirer to ascertain the truth in respect of many customs. The apparent inconsistency or inaccuracy may be due merely to recent changes; it is even possible that this statement of custom may never have been more than a semblance of the truth—in fact, it may resemble the idea laid up in Heaven in the Platonic sense. Thus, among the people of Negri Sembilan, with

whom the author was more intimately concerned, inheritance was in the female line, and no male could hold land. Now, however, owing to the development of the rubber industry, land cleared and cultivated by the individual has come to be regarded as in the nature of any other form of personal property, and so may be held by the male.

Mr. de Moubray, in his inquiry into Malayan matriarchy, has obtained a great deal of evidence at first hand, valuable material, which is here printed in full. With the view of arriving at the underlying principles of the custom, he has been led to compare it with the matriarchal system in Menangkabau, the place of origin of part at least of the population of Negri Sembilan, Canara, and Malabar, where the Nayers still hold to it. His discussion of the social value of the matriarchal system in present conditions serves to emphasise once more the practical value of an inquiry of this nature for the work of administration.

Leitfaden der Anthropologie. Von Dr. K. Saller. Pp. iv + 284. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1930.) 25.80 gold marks.

A BRIEF note must suffice to direct attention to this excellent and much-needed textbook of physical anthropology. The treatment is comprehensive, each aspect, biological, morphological, palæontological, evolutionary, and so forth, being covered. Methods are fully explained, the exposition being accompanied by numerous diagrams, and the present position of our knowledge on the main questions outlined. The section on race is well illustrated by distinctive types, and some attention is given to the neglected question of cross-breeds and hybrids.

Biology.

One Touch of Nature: a Literary Nature Study Reader for Boys and Girls. Arranged by Dr. F. W. Tickner. Pp. viii + 187 + 7 plates. (London: University of London Press, Ltd., 1931.) 2s. 6d.

IN these days of mechanism, when school books and teaching deal so much with the mechanical, it is a refreshing change to find such a book for children as "One Touch of Nature", written and compiled as it is from a varied selection of well-known, well-tried, and well-read Nature writers.

In arranging a volume of this type, for boys and girls, one must not overlook the fact that the average modern boy and girl is often more intrigued by, and interested in, the mechanical side of life. The importance of encouraging the younger generation in a closer and more intimate study of Nature is clearly described by William Warde Fowler on p. 137. In view of the delicacy with which a child's interest in Nature should be captivated and retained, to include such portions from the extracts of John Richard Jefferies as "Bevis and the