

Short Notices

Anthropology and Ethnology

Habitat, Economy and Society: a Geographical Introduction to Ethnology. By Prof. C. Daryll Forde. Pp. xiv + 500. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1934.) 15s. net.

ALTHOUGH the traditional evolutionary view of human society as a progression, which begins with food-gathering and ends with industrialism, does not now commonly occur in geographical and other textbooks in all its cruder simplicity, the various forms of human society are still often treated as if they could be classified in mutually exclusive types, each characterised by a single activity. Prof. Daryll Forde, by describing the life-histories and activities of peoples of primitive culture who, at least up to a few years ago, were untouched by Western civilisation, indicates the misleading trend of this conception. He demonstrates by concrete example the inherent complexity in even the most simple of societies, and the degree to which it is possible to maintain the traditional division of hunters, pastoralists, cultivators and the like.

The claims of description and classification in Prof. Forde's book, however, do not account for the whole of his story; and it is in its broader aspects as an analysis of the development of culture that its greatest interest is to be found. In recognising the effect of, and assigning their appropriate function to environment, diffusion and economic and social factors, as a causation complex in the growth of culture, the author has made a valuable and substantive contribution to method and theory in anthropological studies.

Rebel Destiny: Among the Bush Negroes of Dutch Guiana. By Melville J. Herskovits and Frances S. Herskovits. (Whittlesey House Publication.) Pp. xvii + 366 + 15 plates. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1934.) 12s. 6d. net.

DR. HERSKOVITS, as students of current anthropological literature are aware, has been engaged for some time in studying the cultural status of the African Negro, with special reference to what is sometimes known in America as the Negro problem. With this objective he has worked in West Africa; and has made a valuable study of the American Negro and the results of Negro crossing in the United States. In the course of his investigations, he has visited the communities of the Bush Negroes on the Suriname River in Dutch Guiana, which were formed after the rebellion of Negro slaves some hundred and fifty years ago. The members of these communities recreated something of their native African culture and this they have preserved in a modified but characteristic form ever since.

In the volume under notice, Dr. and Mrs. Herskovits give a popular and lively account of their contacts with these Bush Negroes. It is valuable as giving an insight into the mentality of a little-known

people, and affords material for a comparison with the mentality and beliefs of the Negroes of the West Indies and the less advanced descendants of Negro slaves in the United States. The more strictly scientific account of the authors' results is to be published later.

Proceedings of the First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, London, August 1-6, 1932. Pp. iv + 322. (London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 21s. net.

As it is unlikely that anyone seriously interested in the work of the First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences is unacquainted with the scope of its programme, it is unnecessary to do more here than note the appearance of the volume recording its proceedings. In addition to lists of officers, council and committees, the official report of the programme followed and other administrative and historical detail, it gives abstracts of the papers, which not only serve as a record of the communications submitted, but are also sufficiently full, so that, although not complete, each will serve as a locus of reference.

Biology

The Dinosaurs: a Short History of a Great Group of Extinct Reptiles. By Dr. W. E. Swinton. Pp. xii + 233 + 25 plates. (London: Thomas Murby and Co., 1934.) 15s. net.

OF all extinct animals, the land reptiles named Dinosaurs are the most widely familiar and most frequently mentioned. The gigantic and bizarre proportions of many of them appeal to the popular imagination, and they often lend themselves to effective use in humorous pictures. Dr. Swinton has therefore done good service by writing and publishing an authentic account of our present knowledge of these animals, to which easy reference can be made. He has treated the subject from every point of view, and the attractiveness of his book is much enhanced by several beautiful photographs of new restorations of Dinosaurs made under his direction by Mr. Vernon Edwards.

After some preliminary chapters, in which there are interesting hypothetical maps of the world during the three long periods when Dinosaurs flourished, the various groups are described and discussed in systematic order. The account is remarkably exhaustive and well up to date. For the naturalist, it furnishes an admirable compendium which cannot be found elsewhere; for the general reader it will prove more difficult on account of the frequent use of technical terms and expressions, although some of these are explained in the glossary at the end.

In one of the final chapters, Dr. Swinton remarks on the rarity of traces of disease in the bones of Dinosaurs; and in another chapter he discusses the possible causes of the complete extinction of the