

Law and Order in Polynesia: a Study of Primitive Legal Institutions. By Dr. H. Ian Hogbin. Pp. 296+8 plates. (London: Christophers, 1934.) 12s. 6d. net.

DR. HOGBIN'S study of social regulation in Polynesia adds another to the series of monographs on the ethnography of 'primitive' peoples, which has been inspired by the methods and theories of Prof. B. Malinowski as the founder of the school of 'functional anthropology'. The investigations in Ontong Java, perhaps better known as Lord Howe's Island, in the western Pacific, which are the major source of his book, were carried out by Dr. Hogbin under the auspices of the Australian National Research Council and the University of Sydney; but the book itself was written in London as a thesis for the Ph.D. These details are by no means unimportant. They point to the formative influences which have determined the character of Dr. Hogbin's work; he has been a pupil of Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown and Prof. Malinowski; and his approach to his problem, therefore, has been entirely that of the 'functional' school. Given this point of view, his work is of a high standard in its careful observation, valid argument and lucid exposition.

In detail, Dr. Hogbin's work shows how, functionally considered, individual relations, as elements in situations conditioned by the various group organisations of Polynesian society, are essentially a reciprocity, a co-operative activity, which involves an observance of social and religious obligation. Law and order, thus regarded, cease to be a matter of sanctions or of imposition by a higher authority, but are inherent in function and, in the normal course, sufficiently powerful to overcome any individual inclination to transgression.

It will be seen that this interpretation of law and order differs *toto cœlo* from the outlook of jurisprudence. If the method is sound—there is no desire to raise the question in this connexion—it is necessary, in the interests of comparative study, to find some mode of reconciliation. Otherwise the study of the growth of law and legal institutions is left hanging in the air.

Prof. Malinowski resolves the difficulty in an introduction to Dr. Hogbin's work, in which it is shown that the gap which appears to lie between 'primitive' and civilised, from the point of view of the orthodox jurist, vanishes in the light of an analysis of custom, law, and social and legal institutions, as functionally co-operative to secure the satisfaction of human needs—biological, physiological and psychological.

Le poison des Amanites mortelles. Par R. Dujarric de la Rivière. Pp. 182+24 plates. (Paris: Masson et Cie, 1933.) 60 francs.

FROM the earliest times, toadstools have had the reputation of being poisonous, and most people know some way or other of distinguishing which of them by chance is edible. The fact is, however, that *Amanita phalloïdes* and its near allies, are the only deadly species, and very few others cause serious

inconvenience: it may be added that *A. phalloïdes* 'peels' and does not turn silver black!

In the monograph under notice this common species is considered from every point of view; the somewhat rare *A. verna* and *A. virosa* are treated, but with much less detail. Four excellent coloured plates show the three species in a way which should ensure their ready recognition.

The main interest in the volume is the medical consideration of the fungus-poison both from the physiological viewpoint and that of pathological anatomy. Here is contained a good deal of original investigation. Two of the plates give forty-five photographs taken from a film of the different attitudes of a mouse after a dose of the toxin of *Amanita phalloïdes*.

It seems a little alien to our insular ideas to find a chapter on the medico-legal aspect of fungal poisoning, but it is reported that in Great Britain during 1837-38 statistics gave 4 out of 541 cases of criminal poisoning as caused by fungi. It appears that in France the vendor of fungi is legally responsible for their edibility. There is a chapter on prophylactics, a very full list of references, and a list of papers on poisonous fungi published in the *Bulletin de la Société Mycologique de France*.
J. R.

Counter Attack from the East: the Philosophy of Radhakrishnan. By C. E. M. Joad. Pp. 269. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1933.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE apparent chaos of Western civilisation suggests to Prof. Joad the idea of seeking our salvation through Eastern channels, and this he enthusiastically proposes through an analysis of Radhakrishnan's philosophy. The contribution of Indian thinkers to philosophical discussion is no doubt exceedingly valuable and suggestive; but it is with some reluctance that one would blindly turn to it for exclusive inspiration unless one has fairly well exhausted the possibilities of the West. Occasional remarks about the religious and mystical thought of the West make one rather suspect of Mr. Joad's knowledge of them. But apart from this initial difficulty, the reading of this work will prove to many of singular interest, both in its expository statements and in the contrast it marks out between East and West.

La science française depuis la xvii^e siècle. Par Prof. Maurice Caullery. (Collection Armand Colin: Section de Philosophie, No. 165.) Pp. 215. (Paris: Armand Colin, 1933.) 10.50 francs.

PROF. CAULLERY gives a bird's-eye view of French scientific thought from the seventeenth century to the present day. He could scarcely do more than that in the small compass of his book, which thus suffers from unsupported generalisations, especially about the Middle Ages and about the philosophical bearings of the theories discussed. As an introductory book, it will be found very useful and inspiring, though his bibliography is not quite up-to-date.

T. G.