

La civilisation Ainou et les cultures arctiques
Par Prof. George Montandon. (Bibliothèque scientifique.) Pp. 272+48 plates. (Paris: Payot et Cie., 1937.) 40 francs.

PROF. MONTANDON visited the Ainu of Yezo, or Hokkaido as the Japanese now term it, in 1919. On his return he brought back a great stock of observations and an ethnographical collection, now housed in the Trocadéro in Paris, which one of the foremost authorities on the Ainu at that time pronounced to be the most complete that had ever left the island. In publishing the results of his observations in a volume which appeared not long after, Prof. Montandon promised that a more extended study of Ainu civilization would follow. This promise is fulfilled in the present volume, in which the author has reviewed and analysed critically in the light of his own observation all the information available relating to the culture of this primitive and isolated outpost of the white race.

The study falls into two parts. In the first part, Ainu civilization is described in detail as a unitary manifestation of cultural development. In the second part it is brought into relation with the cultures of the various peoples of northern Asia—Yakut, Yukagir, Gilyak, Eskimo, etc.—and as a result of an analysis of the distribution of cultural traits, an attempt is made to arrive at an estimate of the character of the original Ainu culture. As might be expected, Prof. Montandon's conclusion is that everything in Ainu civilization which can be assigned to an Ainu origin is of extremely primitive character, and belongs to the stage of the food-gatherer and the primitive hunter and fisher. All else is of extraneous origin; this, perhaps, might throw light on the remarkable distribution of the Ainu blood groups, which in its combination of mixed characters Prof. Montandon finds disconcerting.

Prof. Montandon's work is a valuable contribution to the critical literature of ethnology, as well as a welcome survey and record of a civilization which in recent years has suffered much change.

The Development of Modern Medicine: an Interpretation of the Social and Scientific Factors Involved. By Prof. R. H. Shryock. Pp. xv+442+8 plates. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1936.) 18s. net.

THE object of this fascinating work, the author of which is professor of history at Duke University (Carolina), is to portray certain major aspects of medical development against a background of intellectual and social history in general from the commencement of the seventeenth century down to the present time. In the eighteenth century it is shown that physic at first did not keep pace with physics, and it was not until the latter part of this century and the beginning of the nineteenth that medicine began to make further progress. An important step in advance was the successful attempt to correlate clinical and post-mortem observations, in which Boerhaave, Haller and most of all Morgagni were pioneers. The second half of the eighteenth century

was notable for contributions made to public health, such as the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries, child welfare, the control of drunkenness, work on naval and military hygiene, vaccination and other sanitary reforms.

Among the more important advances in modern times stress is laid on the collection of statistics, the influence of French medicine in Europe and the United States, medicine in Germany, preventive medicine and the economic aspects of medical practice.

Materie und Strahlung (Korpuskel und Feld)
Von Prof. Dr. Ludwig Hopf. (Verständliche Wissenschaft, Band 30.) Pp. viii+162. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1936.) 4.80 gold marks.

IN some respects, this is a remarkable little book. The preface warns the reader that it is more difficult to present a tolerable account of modern physics without mathematics than with them: furthermore, he must not expect easy going. The theme throughout is the 'field' and corpuscular aspects of matter, and, very properly, this leads up to a climax in the more recent attempts at a synthesis by Heisenberg, and by those concerned with electron waves.

The author's treatment is naturally at its best in the earlier chapters dealing with classical physics. Here, the use which is made of diagrammatic representation appears to great advantage, especially for the gas laws, Brownian movement and electromagnetism. In quantum physics and wave mechanics, wherein direct appeal to the eye is scarcely possible, the method is perhaps not quite so happy, since the writer depends to a great extent upon direct illustration.

The philosophical outlook is characteristic and stimulating; it is woven into the fabric of the book with considerable skill. Altogether, this is a type of contribution to the literature of physics seldom seen in Great Britain, and on that account alone well worthy of careful study. F. I. G. R.

Die medizinisch-naturphilosophischen Aphorismen und Kommentare des Magister Urso Salernitanus Nach Handschriften Lateinisch und Deutsch herausgegeben von Rudolf Creutz. (Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und der Medizin, Band 5, Heft 1.) Pp. 192. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1936.) 26.60 gold marks.

IN addition to an introduction by Dr. Paul Diepgen, professor of the history of medicine in the University of Berlin, this volume contains the aphorisms on medicine and natural philosophy of the thirteenth century physician and ecclesiastic Urso of Salerno, otherwise known as Magister Orso, followed by his commentaries in the Latin text. Dr. Rudolf Creutz has provided a full German translation of the aphorisms and an abbreviated translation of the commentaries. The historical significance of Urso, as Prof. Diepgen points out, lies in the fact that he deals with the same problems as Arnold of Villanova in the fourteenth, and Paracelsus in the sixteenth, centuries. All three writers were penetrated with Platonic and neo-Platonic ideas and reconciled their religious views with their outlook on natural science.