

## Short Notices

### Anthropology and Ethnology

**A Tribal Survey of Mongalla Province**  
By Members of the Province Staff and Church Missionary Society. Edited by L. F. Nalder. (Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures.) Pp. viii+232. (London: Oxford University Press, 1937.) 15s. net.

THIS collective work by Government and mission officials in the most southerly part of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan may be regarded as a supplement to the studies of C. G. and B. Z. Seligman, Driberg and Evans-Pritchard. It contains useful information, particularly about several tribes for whom hitherto there has been scarcely any published material available, and bears witness to the painstaking interest of European residents of the area in the institutions of the native peoples among whom they work. A feature of note is that nearly all the data have been collected in the vernacular.

But in view of this it is to be regretted that, except for Mr. Mynors on the Moru and Mr. Arber on the Latuka, scarcely any writer has supported his generalizations by quotation of native statements or distinguished what he actually observed from what he was told. In the absence of such empirical records, statements such as "the people's ideas [on religion] are generally very vague and unco-ordinated" or "the basis of Bari society is the clan" or "the Lango women are very liable to hysteria" are of small value. Moreover, even in matters which are comparatively easy to observe, there are many gaps in the analysis which could have been filled. In the chapter on tribal structure there is no section on family life; and the meagre summary of economic life (less than four pages) deals almost solely with technical processes, without reference to methods of productive organization and exchange.

The book has much interesting comparative material, and suggests lines for future inquiry; but it illustrates also how necessary it is nowadays that enthusiasm and hard work should be backed up by systematic anthropological training.

R. F.

**Anthropology:**  
**an Introduction to Primitive Culture.** By Prof. Alexander Goldenweiser. Pp. xxi+550+30 plates. (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1937.) 18s. net.

PROF. GOLDENWEISER'S "Anthropology" was undertaken originally as a revision of his "Early Civilization"; but in the process of expansion it has grown into a new book. It now falls into three parts. The first, "Animals, Man and Culture", deals with man's place in Nature, and his relationship, physical and psychic, to the animal world, as well as his reactions in the development of culture; the second, "Primitive Life and Thought", discusses in twenty-two chapters culture traits, both material and social in

the broader sense, in the light of specific examples as exhibited in varied cultural environments; and in the third, "The Ways of Culture", certain general problems of theoretical import are considered in four chapters on culture and environment, the spread of culture, and evolution and culture. This last section will be particularly valuable to the student. It is a well-balanced and objective examination of topics into which controversial methods are apt to introduce some, however little, distortion. A chapter on "The White Man's Burden" deals with the deplorable effects on backward peoples of contact with white civilization, and describes the efforts which are being made in the United States under the legislation of 1934 to reintegrate the tribal culture of the Indian. Prof. Goldenweiser, while generally approving the object, confesses that he is not an optimist as to the result, although the Indians have shown themselves eagerly ready to take advantage of the offers made by the Government.

### Biology

**Atlas of the Scale Insects of North America**  
By G. F. Ferris. Pp. 280+104 plates. (Stanford University, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1937.) 40s. net.

THIS is the first section of a large work undertaken by Prof. G. F. Ferris of Stanford University, who has for many years made a special study of scale insects. The author hopes eventually to deal with every species of scale insect that is definitely established in North America and to make possible their identification. The "Atlas" is primarily a collection of well-reproduced plates of admirably clear drawings illustrating each species, with brief notes on synonymy, hosts and distribution, habit, and the chief recognition characters; and the matter concerning each species can, if desired, be obtained separately in loose-leaf form.

In an interesting introduction describing the plan and basis of the work, Prof. Ferris also discusses the system of classification adopted. He considers that the old family Coccidæ "must be stepped up at least to a super-family", Coccoidea, within which he recognizes eleven families occurring in North America. Among these, the Diaspididæ is divided into the sub-families Diaspidinæ and Phoenicococcinæ, and the volume under notice deals with the tribe Diaspini of the former sub-family. This covers some 34 genera, including species of *Aulacaspis*, *Chionaspis*, *Diaspis*, *Epidiaspis*, *Lepidosaphes* and *Parlatoria*. The debatable problem of the genera to be accepted is shortly discussed, the author admitting that it "cannot be settled to the satisfaction of everyone, or perhaps even of anyone, the author included". About a hundred species in all are illustrated and, as a rough estimate, it is thought that the complete "Atlas" will include perhaps 750 species.