

central body arising as a coping stone, around this earlier central body are coming into existence a number of loosely linked associations each with its local sphere. This difference has significance.

India has demonstrated that it is capable of producing men with a scientific ability which would do credit to any country, but the very speed with which it has attained this position has its dangers. If, in conclusion, these are briefly indicated, it is in the spirit of the friendly criticism of one who remembers many happy years spent among its peoples. It appears to such a writer that the major danger arises from the entry of India into the scientific field at a time when the application of science to economic problems had proceeded far. It was this pressure that provided openings for a livelihood in scientific work and it

was the Government that mainly created those openings. Science may easily, in these circumstances, lack the stabilizing effect of a nucleus of disinterested men studying for studies' sake, and tend to become merely a means of earning a living; and it is difficult to regard a potential competitor for a post with true scientific detachment. It is a danger from which Great Britain is not free but one which is emphasized in a country where university education is primarily sought as a qualification for employment and where pre-university education remains in many respects defective. These are, however, growing pains; with ability undoubtedly present, with the will to develop the true scientific spirit which clearly exists, who can doubt the future of science in India?

H. M. L.

The Credo of an Anthropologist

Apes, Men and Morons

By Prof. Earnest Albert Hooton. Pp. ix + 307. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1938.) 10s. 6d. net.

IF a credo is to have value, it must be enunciated by one who has several outstanding qualifications. In the first place, it must be based on a prolonged personal experience of a particular branch of knowledge. Prof. Hooton has this qualification; he has been teaching physical anthropology to the students of Harvard University for more than a quarter of a century. In his earlier years he made a detailed report on the bones and culture of the peoples who had inhabited the Canary Islands; later he did the same for Pueblo Indians. In more recent years he has devoted himself to a physical and social study of his fellow countrymen. Of these about 6,000 had been isolated in penal institutions; his "controls" were taken from those "not yet apprehended". The full results of ten years spent in a "statistical purgatory" have not yet been published but in this book he gives in the midst of his general discourse a summary of his chief conclusions. He has found that those within the walls of penal institutions are inferior in body and in mind to those who live outside, and that already in the United States of America the population is becoming differentiated into local types.

Prof. Hooton has the knowledge, but knowledge alone is not sufficient to make a credo worth listening to. Knowledge must be linked to a sound judgment, and ultimate beliefs must be uttered with a resolution which is fearless of popular

opinion. It needs as much courage to run counter to the prejudices of a democracy as to face the wrath of an autocracy. "For myself," Prof. Hooton has written, "I prefer to be the target of rotten eggs rather than to be suspected as a purveyor of that odoriferous commodity." He refuses to "side-step the issues which are vital and dangerous" and seeing that he discusses the problems of 'race', religion and sex, a less courageous man would have been tempted to "side-step" at every turn. Prof. Hooton, too, has the saving grace of humour; his pages scintillate.

A book which is made up, like the present one, of lectures and articles, is apt to be disjointed and over-lapping. There is no trace of these faults in the present work. Its pages discuss in sequence the various phases in man's ascent from the jungle. Especially is its author concerned with the impact of his science on the community. His attitude will be conveyed by an extract from his final chapter entitled: "What must we do to be Saved"?

"We must either do some biological house-cleaning or delude ourselves with the futile hope that a government of the unfit, for the unfit, and by the unfit will not perish from the earth.

"We must, in some way or other, encourage a sit-down reproductive strike of the busy breeders among the morons, criminals and social ineffectuals of our population. . . . We must inculcate into the rising generation a code of biological ethics. . . . The emergency demands a surgical operation."

I, for one, refuse to take Prof. Hooton's "obstinate pessimism" in all its implications; nevertheless, his is a vigorous and timely call to action—on the part of everyone.

A. K.