

life-history, ecology, etc., of the species concerned, and also (in most cases) by a list of its British records. The description of each species concludes with a brief summary of its foreign distribution. This part of the work is fully and beautifully illustrated, the majority of the text figures being by Terzi. An account of methods of control and some general notes on biology bring the book to an end.

It need scarcely be said that different authors would emphasize rather different parts of the subject. The present reviewer thinks that the account of those races of *Anopheles maculipennis* which do not occur in Britain might well have been omitted, particularly as the subject has received such full attention elsewhere. It seems also that some reference should have been made to the British record of the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedēs*

*argenteus*). No one supposes that the insect occurs wild in Britain; but there is a printed record of it being found in Epping Forest which should perhaps have been mentioned, if only to point out that it might have been based on an error.

The book as a whole is remarkably up to date, even on matters about which many entomologists are not well informed, such as the relation of species of *Anopheles* to malaria and the physiology of mosquitoes. The great majority of the figures are line drawings by Mr. Terzi, many of them having already appeared in the previous book. There are also some remarkably successful photographs of adult mosquitoes taken by the author and his assistant, Mr. Staley. The few coloured plates are perhaps unnecessary, and not particularly successful.

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## Relative Abilities in Primitive Groups

### Primitive Intelligence and Environment

By Dr. S. D. Porteus. Pp. ix+325. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1937.) 15s. net.

DR. S. D. PORTEUS has an honourable record of studies in the comparative psychological endowment and capacities common in different social groups. It is, therefore, the more to be regretted that this particular book is rather hastily thrown together, and falls far short of what should reasonably be required in any scientific treatise. Two thirds of it consists in theoretical discussion and in interesting, but superficial, descriptions of the social and material environment of the various groups the members of which Dr. Porteus has directly studied.

In the theoretical discussion the author shows himself to be alive to the difficulties of the type of comparisons which he is attempting to make, and he states those difficulties fairly and well. But that small portion of the book which is devoted to facts is poor. The evidence brought forward is not impressive in amount, the methods employed—all consisting in the application of mental and physical 'tests'—are not adequately described, and the statistical form in which the results of the tests are presented is thoroughly unsatisfactory. Very nearly half this factual section is devoted to a study of results secured from some form or forms of the author's well-known 'maze test', here treated, without anything like sufficient justification, as an index of capability to adapt to the demands of an encroaching white civilization. If the test can be treated in this way, it is certainly a most extraordinary thing to find that various

groups of Australian aboriginals score more highly at it than do groups of Bantu natives. But as only average scores are presented, with no measure whatsoever of dispersion, and no indication of the distribution of scores, it is actually impossible to draw any sure conclusion.

Other comparisons are made on the basis of psychophysical factors: brain capacity, right- and left-hand grip, and right- or left-hand dominance of grip. Apart from the fact that here, also, only average measures are presented, nobody knows yet what conclusions, if any, of a psychological nature can be drawn from these particular characteristics.

Finally, there is a short chapter on "Tests of Learning Capacity". These are, in this book, rather a mixed grill. They are made up of form board and assembling tests, a footprints test—in which duplicate photographs of footprints on a dusty road have to be matched with the originals—tests of auditory and visual rote memory, and a small battery of 'intelligence' tests of the routine kind. From the application of these, little is concluded.

Dr. Porteus says that he will present the whole of the statistical detail later and fully. Until he does so, a final judgment of the value of his work as recorded in this volume must be suspended. When he does so, it is greatly to be hoped that he will consider fully what precise criteria, both of a statistical and of a general psychological kind, must be satisfied if the results of the application of psychological tests are to be used seriously for the purpose of comparing the relative abilities common in differently organized groups.

F. C. B.