

organs. "Thyroid glands, ovaries, hearts, kidneys and pancreas were found to maintain or to modify *in vitro* their functional activity according to the chemical composition of the perfusing medium." For example, the addition to the Tyrode solution of only 5 per cent serum allowed parts of the thyroid to survive for several days, the addition of 10 per cent kept the gland alive and almost unchanged for more than a week, whilst 80 per cent produced hyperactivity of the organ as compared with the uncultivated control from the same animal. The thyroid was maintained in a healthy state for several weeks by transferring it every week to another pump with a fresh supply of diluted serum. The photomicrographs of sections of perfused organs present convincing evidence of the healthiness of the tissue even after prolonged cultivation.

Normal functioning of the perfused organs has also been demonstrated. Thus iodine is secreted into the perfusion fluid of the thyroid, and the secretion can be increased by adding thyrotropic

hormone to the fluid. Similarly, the perfused pancreas has been shown to secrete insulin.

The number of problems to which this ingenious method can be applied is almost unlimited, and it is to be hoped that the Carrel-Lindberg technique will be introduced into many physiological and medical laboratories. The chief obstacles to its more general use are its difficulty and the complexity of the apparatus required. Dr. Carrel encourages the reader by assuring him that the method is not so difficult as it looks, but admits that it cannot be learned from a book; it should be studied in a laboratory where it is being practised.

This book should be of the utmost value to the beginner who, having acquired the technique under expert guidance, is endeavouring to establish it in his own laboratory. Moreover, although primarily a technical work, it contains matter of considerable biological interest and can therefore be recommended to the general scientific reader.

H. B. F.

THE LEPCHAS OF SIKKIM

Himalayan Village :
an Account of the Lepchas of Sikkim. By Geoffrey Gorer. Pp. 510+32 plates. (London: Michael Joseph, Ltd., 1938.) 25s. net.

MR. GORER, who had already proved his mettle as an observer in "Africa Dances", is now, as Prof. Hutton points out in his introduction to this book, a recruit to the ranks of serious anthropologists. He is fortunate in that his first essay in ethnographical study deals with a people, the Lepchas of Sikkim, whose country hitherto has been virtually closed to Europeans. In 1936 he accompanied Major C. J. Morris to Sikkim, and after two months spent at Kalumpong in study of the language, settled with him, under favour of the Maharajah and with his approval as their passport, in the village of Lingthem, which comprises a population of one hundred and seventy-six individuals. Mr. Gorer's book, and the account of the same village published recently by Major Morris, thus give from two different points of view what in sum is a comprehensive picture of a country and a culture, which though changing, up to now have been completely outside European influence and contact.

The author has treated his subject-matter from three different points of view, to each of which he devotes a section of his book. In the first he deals with the material and formalized aspects of Lepcha

society—its framework; in the second he covers the mainly unformalized aspects of their life; and in the third he presents the life-history of certain individuals who, it is to be presumed, may be regarded as typical.

Certain aspects of Lepcha life have impressed him more strongly than others as characteristic; and it is under discussion of these in his attempts at their evaluation that the author makes, apart from his purely descriptive work, his main contribution to anthropological thought—a contribution which gives his book an additional claim to the serious attention of the anthropologist. Of these characteristics one is the remarkable lack of aggressiveness in the Lepcha character. His explanation which attributes this lack to the swamping of personality in the group feeling is discussed by Prof. Hutton in his introduction with some reserve, but not unsympathetically.

A further characteristic, to which the author makes extended reference, is the obsession of the whole community by sex, a point which also impressed Major Morris. Here again Prof. Hutton has raised an interesting question by asking whether decline of population and sterility are cause, or effect, of this obsession.

Finally, there is the cynical attitude of the Lepchas to their own religious beliefs, associated with an optimism which is qualified by a complete lack of belief in their own efforts and their future.