

mentals of behaviour can make up for the ape's lack of articulate speech and symbolic processes.

Prof. Yerkes's book is a great achievement and a rich contribution to the literature of the Primates. Students of the subject once again stand deeply in his debt.

S. ZUCKERMAN.

## THE STUDY OF MORALE

### The Structure of Morale

By Dr. J. T. MacCurdy. Pp. vii + 224. (Cambridge : At the University Press, 1943.) 8s. 6d. net.

**I**N the speaking and writing on current problems of which there is to-day such an increasing spate, discussion of values of a non-material nature frequently introduces the use of the word 'morale'. It is then employed in a loose, indefinite fashion to cover a diversity of meanings. A serious study of the whole subject by a writer of standing, qualifications and experience comes very apt to the moment.

Warren, in his "Dictionary of Psychology", allows the more general application of the term to the attitude of the group, though permitting its use in speaking of the individual, and considers that it marks the degree of confidence, perseverance in work, and adherence to ideals. The behaviour of man as a human being has long since ceased to be that of an isolated unit and to an increasing extent become that of a member of a community. According to McDougall, the positive side of the group spirit depends on the existence in the mind of each component of a clear knowledge of the group, of his place in it, and of a sentiment of devotion to it. It is important to recognize that there is an inward source of authority based on the herd instinct, leading to social cohesion and co-operation.

Dr. MacCurdy is a university lecturer on the subject of psycho-pathology ; called upon in the earlier days of the War to lecture on problems of morale to selected personnel, he has wisely chosen to be practical, concrete and direct rather than theoretical and discursive. Discussion of the multiple facets of this subject has required some explanation of the common psychological urges with particular reference to the group-mind and the implications of the part played by the herd instinct in the feeling, thinking and willing of mankind. To do so he has, of course, had to cover elementary ground, to re-state the trite and to enlarge the commonplace. But Dr. MacCurdy is never dull ; he always has an appositeness of remark and a convergent simplicity interesting to the informed and instructive to the ordinary man.

This very broad approach is dealt with systematically by the author. First of all he gives some attention to the place of the individual, and has taken for this purpose the nature and effects of fear. He explains the factors incident upon the individual in his dual reactions as a unit and as a member of a community, showing neatly how a man can be both frightened and brave at the same moment. Stress is rightly laid on the identification of the self with the ideal of the group, the striving urge in this direction, and the increasing pride, nay pleasure, in the acceptance of another and higher responsibility.

Perhaps the most attractive chapters in the book come in the second section, which deals with the basic principles of social life. It is to be remembered that the feelings seeking expression in the face of any given event are not the mere outcome of a momen-

tary impulse ; they represent the focus, the apex, of a wealth of interlocking, often contradictory factors stretching far back into the heredity and history of the individual. All sorts of influences—education, tradition, climate, geography, health, contacts, etc.—provide threads reaching down to and governing the immediate response. In considering all these qualities involved in the make-up of morale, Dr. MacCurdy is able to discuss the variables, such as national and religious sentiments, different scales of values, loyalties, leadership, moralities and so on. He has some very apposite remarks to make on the growth and development of national differences and tendencies in this respect, cultivated and shown consciously or not. Though he is quite ready to criticize details of our own national traits and aspirations, it is satisfying to find that he is able to come to a dispassioned judgment against the fundamentals of the German.

That confidence in the outcome which is a constituent part of morale depends very largely upon the feeling about the organization behind the effort. This again in many if not all of its details has implications of importance. In the third section of his book Dr. MacCurdy takes up the various aspects coming under the head of organization, liaison, departmentalism, caste, science and its place, democracy, dictatorships, public service : many, in short, of the difficulties inherent in the mere necessity of some sort of co-ordination for mutual and common ends. He is thus able to separate out and dissect in detail, but always in relation to the common factor, the multiple problems involved in our relations with our fellow-men calling for collective and accepted arrangement.

The "Structure of Morale" is a sound and competent piece of work. Written by a man of special experience and opportunities, it succeeds, though dealing largely with subjects of a strong technical flavour, in explaining with clarity and instructing with interest upon the changing values of a changing world. It is full of common sense and clear thinking. It will be read with advantage by everyone, from chief executive to railway clerk, who has any vision for things beyond the close horizon of his petty personal interests. Even these are involved, for they can never be quite disentangled from what R. L. Stevenson has so aptly called "a municipal fitness".

JOSEPH GEOGEGAN.

## FLUCTUATION IN ANIMAL POPULATIONS

### Population Dynamics and Adaptive Evolution of Animals

By S. A. Sewertzoff. (In Russian.) Pp. 316. (Leningrad : Academy of Sciences U.S.S.R. Moscow, 1941.) 11 roubles.

**P**ROBLEMS of fluctuation in numbers in animal populations are of direct interest both to those concerned with the exploitation of natural animal resources (fish, game, fur-bearing animals) and to students of evolution. Theoretical research on these problems is visualized by the author mainly as investigation of facts illustrating the Darwinian theory of the struggle for existence. According to him the overwhelming importance of the struggle for existence is overlooked by the majority of theoretical biologists, and this accounts for the spread of such idealistic theories as hologenesis, Lamarckism, nomo-