

not only excite much controversy among those at present in the field, but also stimulate others to take a more serious view of what is one of the most exciting and intriguing problems involving, as it does, psychological, philosophical and religious speculation. E. J. DINGWALL.

AMERICA'S MINORITY PROBLEM

The Navaho Door

An Introduction to Navaho Life. By Alexander H. Leighton and Dorothea C. Leighton. Pp. xviii+149 +36 plates. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1944.) 22s. 6d. net.

DRS. A. H. and D. C. LEIGHTON are deeply concerned that the United States may be truly prepared to play the great part which she inevitably must in building international peace, and they see clearly that this preparation must begin at home. "We cannot hope to be on proper terms with Russians, Argentinians, Peruvians, British and Chinese, if we are unable to understand the cultural groups who are much more easily within the range of our comprehension." By a happy chance, the Navaho Indians, whose reservation lies in the States of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, came to their attention, and they decided to live and work among them, and try to see things through Navaho eyes. This book is a measure of their success, and is a notable contribution to the sympathetic understanding and fair treatment of the Indian. "It was obvious that we could not study all the world, but we could study the Navahos," and they did so in the hope that the principles which they learnt might have an application to a much wider circle. It is natural, in a book written by physicians, that much space should be devoted to medicine, but this, not less than the remainder of the book, will be of value to the anthropologist and of interest to the general reader.

Owing to the accidents of history, there came a time in the nineteenth century when the Navahos were outcasts and every man's hand was against them. Finally they came to terms with the U.S. Government, which established them on their reservation and put them under the enlightened administration of the Indian Service; but even then their troubles were not ended. There are always white men who are ready to take the Indian's land and exploit his labour, excusing themselves on some fair-sounding pretext, and the Government has not consistently set its face against political pressure designed to this end. The danger is not past, and to counteract it is one of the objects of the book.

The most illuminating parts of the chapters on medical treatment and education are the specimen speech on health and the examples of interviews with Indians suffering from various diseases, which give an insight into the way in which the medical man must approach these matters if he is to get any response from his patients. Great emphasis is laid throughout on the help which can be got from native religion and the methods of treatment which are so intimately bound up with it. One chapter is devoted to the life-stories of three Navahos, told as nearly as possible in their own words. The remaining chapters, on history, environment and society, religion, the Indian Service, and future prospects, are informative and sufficient to give a background to the main pur-

pose of the book; but anthropologists must not expect full and detailed descriptions of customs and material culture like, for example, the works of Leslie White on the Pueblos. The production of the book leaves nothing to be desired; the illustrations are superb.

In spite of the poverty of much of the land on their reservation and the uncertainty of the harvests, the Navaho population has increased threefold under the Indian Service. The head of this service, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, at whose request the book was written, pays handsome tribute in a foreword to the practical help which its administrators have already received from the Leightons' studies, and workers in other fields will doubtless derive like benefit from them. G. H. S. BUSHNELL.

SOME TICKS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

The Argasidæ of North America, Central America and Cuba

By R. A. Cooley and Glen M. Kohls. (American Midland Naturalist, Monograph No. 1.) Pp. v+152. (Notre Dame, Ind.: American Midland Naturalist, University of Notre Dame, 1944.) 2 dollars.

THE Argasidæ are an important family of ticks and several of their species are of medical or veterinary significance. In so far as the North American kinds are concerned, five species of *Ornithodoros* are proved carriers of the spirochaetes of relapsing fever. Rocky Mountain spotted fever has been experimentally transmitted by *Ornithodoros parkeri* and *O. hermsi*. *Argas persicus* is a widespread notorious pest of poultry: the birds may become weakened owing to loss of blood and, when large numbers of ticks are involved, the effects often cause death of the hosts. This tick may also be the carrier of avian spirochaetosis, at least in Texas. The spinose ear tick of cattle, *Otobius megnini*, is a serious enemy of young animals in particular, causing much irritation and loss of condition. This species, however, has not been shown to be concerned with the transmission of any specific disease organism.

Messrs. Cooley and Kohls' monograph is a competent taxonomic study of the species affecting the areas under consideration. The classification of ticks is beset with difficulties and not the smallest of these is, as the authors point out, the lack of adequate characters upon which the genera are to be founded. So far, no genera have been synonymized, but with the increasing numbers of new species that are being discovered it has become more and more difficult to separate the genus *Argas* from *Ornithodoros*. This difficulty has resulted in the authors meeting it by modifying the diagnoses in the two genera just quoted. Host specificity varies a good deal among different species and a surprising number of North American kinds have been found on bats. The authors recognize four genera of Argasidæ, and these include at least twenty-five North American species. Two of these species belong to the genus *Argas*, *Ornithodoros* includes nineteen species and there are two species each in *Otobius* and in *Antricola*.

Wherever possible, descriptions are given of the adult, nymph and larva in each case. A classified list of hosts is given together with a glossary of the terms used and a bibliography. The work is illustrated by fourteen plates and fifty-seven text-figures (including maps).