

with those made in the reports already noted. By reform and example at the top, he hopes to secure a real co-ordination of the work of departments in the light of coherent policies thought out beforehand, and to eliminate the extemporization and weak compromises which so often result from the attempt to reconcile conflicting departmental policies as and when a problem has obtruded itself on the attention of an overworked Cabinet. Incidentally, while Mr. Amery appreciates the need to encourage the creative and constructive side of the work of the Civil Service, he recognizes that departments have not been so lacking in initiative and creative thought as is sometimes suggested. He is severest on the Treasury, and insists particularly on the need for co-ordination here, as does the Fabian Society's report. That constructive criticism from such varied quarters should issue in such similar proposals should not be overlooked by those who, independent of party politics, are concerned to preserve our great heritage of freedom and adapt it to the needs of the present, having regard both to the new burdens and tasks of Government and to the dangers inherent in the neglect to keep the spirit rather than the letter of the constitution. It is to such criticism that we must look in approaching the general task of increasing the efficiency while decreasing the cost of government; by this means proposals for re-organisation may be forthcoming which will enable Government from the Cabinet downwards to cope effectively with the tasks which face it to-day.

PEOPLES OF THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO

The Peoples of Malaysia

By Fay-Cooper Cole. Pp. xiv+354+37 plates. (New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1945.) 22s. net.

PROF. COLE has aimed at giving, in a comparatively small volume, a conspectus of the extremely varied peoples of Malay affinities, at every stage of culture from that of the primitive food collector of Malayan jungles to the civilized inhabitant of Manila or Batavia, who inhabit the Indian archipelago. The author postulates an underlying unity of culture multifariously and unevenly affected by various intrusive elements, and accounts for it convincingly by pointing out the way in which the courses of the great rivers of south-east Asia afford a number of extremely divergent outlets to the sea from the comparatively confined area of the sources of the Brahmaputra, Salween, Mekong and Yangtze. In the prolonged and diverse courses of their journeys to the islands, the various branches of the mongoloid stock from which the Malays spring have been subjected to very varied influences, and have received yet more and stronger ones after reaching their island homes. The great diversity that has resulted from this is illustrated by a series of accounts of different tribes chosen from various grades of culture and including tribes of Australoid and of negrito affinities which seem to have preceded the Malayan elements. These accounts are inevitably generalized, and are not all based on personal observation and knowledge, though

the author's personal experience of the Indian Archipelago is obviously wide.

In such an account it is almost inevitable that there should be some inaccuracies and occasional dubieties, and while they detract little from the value of this admirable general account of the Malayan peoples, it is probably worth while directing attention to certain of them. Thus the author's general judgment on the problem of negrito variations is obviously sound, but he is very much out of date in putting the total of the Andamanese at 2,000. The number was a little less than that in 1901, and there were only 460 left in 1931. In the Census Report of 1941, the Andamanese do not seem to be mentioned at all. Prof. Cole suggests (p. 89) that the pygmies of Malaysia are unable to swim; but I have seen Andamanese swimming round and under a harpooned but very active dugong some 9 ft. long to rope its flukes to its sides by slipping nooses over its head. The Jakun are mentioned as using a blowgun "artificially bored as in Borneo". It should be made clear that they do not make it themselves; it has always been imported for them from Borneo.

Prof. Cole suggests that the Punans of central Borneo do not exist as a distinct people, but are merely parties of temporary nomads who have been mistaken for such. In view of the circumstantial and detailed accounts of Punans both by Haddon, and by Hose, who lived some twenty-five years in Sarawak, this suggestion seems almost frivolous, particularly in view of Prof. Cole's own statement as to want of knowledge of central Borneo. The suggestion (p. 211) that the long house is "a development from the widespread unit dwelling" may conceivably hold good for the Tinguian, but in many cases it is more likely that the development has been the other way, and that the long house has devolved into a narrow street of separate houses with the bachelors' communal house surviving as a separate building at one end. Indeed, intermediate stages in such a development have been observed in New Guinea.

The effect of contacts with Malaysia from India have perhaps not been entirely understood, for they must have started at a considerably earlier date than the development of Brahmanism; and on the other hand, there are indications of some very early development and dispersion of culture from a centre in the archipelago which possibly carried items of culture like househorns of the Menangkabau far afield to Assam and Madagascar. The ancient bronze 'kettledrums' of the Karens, of Siam, and of Cochin China have likewise been ascribed by some authorities to an island source, such as may have also been responsible for the great monolithic burial urns of Cochin China, Sumatra and Assam. Had the author cast his net wider than Malaysia, he would have found an even closer correspondence of cultural features widely spread in south-east Asia (and beyond it) than he himself suggests.

It remains to add that Prof. Cole criticizes severely the nature and effects of British Colonial policy in Malaya, contrasting it, much to its disadvantage, with the policy of American administrators and Roman Catholic missionaries. It would, we think, be possible to present a very different picture of the results of American policy in the Philippines without any greater departure from objectivity. There are several misprints, and the illustrations are poorer than we have learned to expect from American publications of this class.

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