

Tentative Study of the Pleistocene Climatic Changes and Stone-Age Culture Sequence in North-Eastern Angola

By Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. *Companhia de Diamantes de Angola: Publicacoes Culturais*, No. 4. Pp. 82. (Dundo, Angola: Museu do Dundo, 1949.)

IT is rare for a commercial company to take an interest in a purely cultural matter, and it is still rarer when money is expended on it. The *Companhia de Diamantes de Angola* and Mr. J. Janmart, the chief of the prospecting service, are to be congratulated on forgetting diamonds for a moment and turning their attention to the prehistory of Angola. Mr. Janmart, with a grant from the Company, attended the Pan-African Congress on Prehistory at Nairobi in January 1947, and there arranged that Dr. L. S. B. Leakey should visit Angola and report. This book is the result.

Naturally, as the result of only a short visit, the volume is necessarily general and tentative; much further detailed work will be necessary. But the evidence already obtained is encouraging. A number of sections were examined and stone industries discovered. Indeed, it has been possible to suggest a sequence and correlations with other known areas. The 'datum line' is the deposit of the Kalahari sands. The late Acheulean industries occur below the older Kalahari sands, which themselves contain the proto-Sangoan. The Middle Sangoan is found at the base of the Upper Kalahari sands. With such fixed datum lines it will be easy to fit in further details as they come to hand. Dr. Leakey and Mr. Janmart are to be congratulated on opening up a new area in African prehistoric research.

Niels Bjerrum

Selected Papers. Edited by friends and co-workers on the occasion of his 70th Birthday, the 11th of March, 1949. Pp. 295. (Copenhagen: Einar Munksgaard, 1949.) 18 kr.

IN a foreword to this handsome volume, Prof. Niels Bohr says that the editorial committee thought that an edition of a selection of his papers would be the most fitting way in which his colleagues could express the indebtedness which chemists and physicists owe to Prof. Niels Bjerrum. It is certain that many friends all over the world will be pleased with this birthday gift to the distinguished Danish chemist. Many of the papers reprinted, all of which are translated into English, have had a lasting influence on physical chemistry, and it is good to have them collected in this way. The frontispiece is an excellent portrait of Prof. Bjerrum. J. R. P.

The Lapwing

Written and illustrated by E. A. R. Ennion. (*Field Study Books*, No. 1.) Pp. xii+48+4 plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1949.) 6s. net.

IN this book on the lapwing Dr. E. A. R. Ennion shows that he has studied his subject with considerable care, and I have few criticisms to make, except that he might have told us rather more about this bird, popular as it is. One would have liked to have read his theory for its decrease everywhere in Great Britain, and its almost complete disappearance from some areas. One expected to have some account of the devastating effect on the species of that prolonged spell of frost and snow from January until March in the year 1947. Since that time, I do not think more than two pairs of lapwings have nested

in all the Isle of Skye. But that Arctic spell, although it greatly accelerated the decrease of the species, does not altogether account for it, for the decrease was in progress before that date. Shall we some day be told that there is a Hebridean lapwing, ranking as a sub-species?

The nesting habits of the lapwing of the Hebrides are rather different, since it rarely nests on fields but usually out on the open moor, or on the machair. Hebridean lapwings cannot, I think, migrate as far as the birds of some upland mainland districts. Whereas the lapwing population of the Isle of Skye had been almost wiped out by the long-sustained cold spell of early 1947, the population in the high-lying and snowy district of the county of Lanark returned in force in the spring; the birds had perhaps migrated to Spain or to North Africa, for the frost was intense even in the south of Ireland.

The illustrations in black-and-white by the author are interesting, and some of them are very good; but the coloured plates have suffered in reproduction. SETON GORDON

Primulas for Garden and Greenhouse

By E. H. M. Cox and G. C. Taylor. Pp. vii+86+16 plates. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell, 1947.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE genus *Primula* is certainly one of the most attractive and rewarding to any gardener worthy of his salt and lucky enough to live in a climate that suits the more difficult species. Its continued popularity is shown by the issue of a second edition of Messrs. Cox and Taylor's useful little book, first published in 1928. The new volume is virtually a reprint of the first edition, with the nomenclature and a few other necessary points brought up to date. It still provides a good introduction to the genus for gardeners; but it is a pity that the statement that "botanists will never cease arguing whether this [*P. elatior*, the oxlip] is a natural species or a cross between the Primrose and the Cowslip" should have been left uncorrected. J. S. L. G.

A Textbook of Physical Chemistry

By Dr. J. Newton Friend. Abridged and revised (second) edition. Pp. xv+566+7 plates. (London: Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1948.) 42s. net.

THE first edition of Dr. Friend's book in two volumes has been valued by teachers and students as a very readable, accurate, and useful work. It filled a place not occupied by any other book. The new edition in one volume contains all the more advanced parts of the earlier work, and much new material. By using a very concise style and taking for granted some very elementary material, the author has contrived to pack into the volume a surprising amount of information, which nevertheless does not give the impression of undue condensation. This is probably because the author has thought everything out before writing, and has made full use of his real capacity for presenting information in an interesting way. All the topics included in courses on physical chemistry of degree standard are covered, and a very good feature of the book is the inclusion of a chapter on combustion in gases and many smaller sections on subjects of similar interest and importance, which are usually neglected in text-books. The book is one which every teacher and student will find useful. It is up to date and sufficiently detailed to be valuable for reference. The paper and printing are unusually good and there is a detailed index. J. R. P.