

The Kalahari Sands of the Lunda (N.E. Angola), their Earlier Redistribution and the Sangoan Culture

Companhia de Diamantes de Angola: Museu do Dundo. Subsídios para a História, Arqueologia e Etnografia dos Poros da Lunda. Publicações Culturais No. 20. By J. Janmart. Pp. 65. (Lisboa: Companhia de Diamantes de Angola.) n.p.

SENHOR J. JANMART, chief of the prospecting service of the Companhia de Diamantes de Angola, has spent many years in studying the Kalahari Sands and their immediate derivatives. The Sands themselves fall into a threefold chronological series: Lower Kalahari (Kamina formation); Middle Kalahari (silcrete); and Upper Kalahari (Kalahari Sands). All three deposits are pre-Pleistocene in age. Following on the deposition of the Upper Kalahari Sands denudation and redeposition have taken place, and a series of beds of redistributed sands has been determined. The volume under review deals with the first two of these post-Upper Kalahari beds and their correlation with archaeological discoveries.

The Upper Kalahari Sands and the earliest of the redistributed sand layers so far have yielded no human artefacts. If the Upper Kalahari Sands are assigned to a late Pliocene date, the succeeding layer may perhaps be considered as early Pleistocene, since the succeeding layer (redistributed sands (II)) contains Sangoan industries. Actually two typical Acheulean coups de poing have been found in a deposit which seems to date immediately anterior to the deposition of the redistributed sands (II), and this is what one would expect since the Sangoan culture is post-Acheulean in date and belongs to the Middle Stone Age complex both in East and South Africa.

This volume under review is an interesting contribution to knowledge and is well illustrated both in the way of half-tones and maps, sections and reproductions of stone implements. Those of us who read Portuguese with some difficulty are grateful to the author for having so considerably written the volume in English. M. C. BURKITT

Australian and New Zealand Botany

By Prof. J. McLuckie and Dr. H. S. McKee. Pp. xx+758. (Sydney: Associated General Publications, 1954.) £Aust.4 4s.

ONE of the problems of teaching elementary botany in the Antipodes is that the text-books are European. The enthusiastic teacher may illustrate his lectures by the use of Australian plants, and he will be obliged to use some local types in the laboratory; but the student will still turn to standard British texts, and will read about fertilization in *Fucus* although he has seen it in *Hormosira*, and about the male cones on *Pinus* although he has dissected them on *Macrozamia*. There has long been need of a text-book up to first-year university standard based on plant life as the Australian student sees it, not as the professor from England remembers it. Drs. McLuckie and McKee have now supplied this need admirably. Their book amply covers a conventional first-year course. It is well illustrated with large numbers of original drawings. There are a full and up-to-date discussion of physiology, and a lucid section on fungi (where most of the types are providentially similar for the English and Australian student); a summary, all too brief, on the Australian and New Zealand flora, containing material which

has not been assembled before in accessible form; and finally a brief history of botany in Australia and New Zealand. The book is a credit to Australian publishing, which until recently could not have produced such a book as this. It will undoubtedly be the mainstay of generations of Australian and New Zealand students. E. A.

Science in Everyday Life

By Ellsworth S. Obourn, Prof. Elwood D. Heiss, and Gaylord C. Montgomery. Pp. viii+612+16 plates. 30s. net. Teachers Guide for Science in Everyday Life. Pp. 21. 3s. net. (New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1953.)

THE book is written for young adolescent boys and girls, and aims at developing an interest in science and an understanding of its applications in solving everyday problems. A very broad field is covered; indeed, the book has something of the character of an encyclopædia; but it is designed as a definite teaching course covering a single school year. The 'topic' method is followed as a means of stressing the unity of science, and emphasis is laid throughout on the underlying theme of energy.

With so wide a range of subject-matter the treatment is perforce very superficial, and from the point of view of general science teaching one feels that the authors have at times tried to build too much on what must necessarily be meagre foundations. For this reason the book would find only very limited application in the classroom in Great Britain, where the tendency is rather to narrow the field and so allow more detailed treatment. It would commend itself rather as a personal reference book for the bright thirteen-year-old child with a scientific bent. As such its appeal is enhanced by the numerous good illustrations and diagrams, also suggestions for experiments or observations drawn from common daily experience. MAURICE ASHBY

Seventh Congress of the Universities of the Commonwealth, 1953—Report of Proceedings

Edited by Dr. J. F. Foster. Pp. xxxviii+296. (London: Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 1954.) 21s.

THIS admirably produced report of the proceedings of the Seventh Congress of the Universities of the Commonwealth, 1953, includes the text of the opening addresses at the five main sessions of the Congress and also those given at the two sessions on the special topic of the subject or subjects to-day best fitted to fulfil the part played previously in the university curriculum by the classics, as well as reports of the ensuing discussions. Although there is no index, the layout of the contents is such as to facilitate ready reference to the remarks made by any particular speaker or on any subject discussed. Besides the report of the executive council of the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth for the period July 1948–June 1953, there are appended a report by the Committee for Commonwealth University Interchange on interchange visits between Commonwealth Universities and a note by the Principal of the University of London on the effect of superannuation schemes on mobility of academic staff within the Commonwealth. The Association is to be congratulated in placing on permanent record so much material of continuing interest in current discussions in a form as pleasant to handle as it is convenient of reference.