

ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES

Method in Social Anthropology

Selected Essays. By A. R. Radcliffe-Brown. Edited by Prof. M. N. Srinivas. Pp. xxi+189. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press; London: Cambridge University Press, 1958.) 28s. net.

The Scope of Physical Anthropology and Its Place in Academic Studies

A Symposium held at the Ciba Foundation, 6th November 1957. Edited by D. F. Roberts and J. S. Weiner. Pp. vii+66. (New York: The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Published for The Society for the Study of Human Biology, 1958. Obtainable from the Institute of Biology, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.) n.p.

THE first part of this work of the late Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown includes a number of his previously published essays in chronological order. These are concerned principally with the scope of social anthropology and its relation to other disciplines, mainly psychology and history. In the latter regard Radcliffe-Brown was at considerable pains to show that the problems of anthropology are quite different from those of ethnology. Social anthropology must also employ comparative methods, but with the aim of exploring varieties of social life as a basis for the theoretical study of human phenomena rather than of discovering historical connexions between peoples. It seeks not to 'explain', but to understand a particular feature of a particular society by first seeing it as a particular instance of a general kind of social phenomena, and then by relating it to a certain general tendency in human societies. Radcliffe-Brown returned to the comparative method in the first five chapters of an introductory work which was uncompleted at his death. These chapters, which are included in the present book, provide a very clear, if somewhat abbreviated, exposition of his scientific approach and employment of such central concepts as 'social structure', 'social organization', 'social evolution', etc. "R.-B.'s" many admirers and followers will be glad to have these posthumous essays and selection of writings within a single volume, although its actual title is slightly misleading. His main contribution to methodology is to be found elsewhere—in his "Structure and Function in Primitive Society" and in his "Introduction to African Systems of Kinship and Marriage".

The second of the volumes under review comprises some ten papers, read at a symposium in 1957 at the Ciba Foundation, with the object of defining the scope of physical anthropology and introducing it to those in cognate sciences. Sir Wilfrid Le Gros Clark, who opened the session, feels that physical anthropology is a historical subject in so far as it studies the organic relation of the human species to lower animals, its evolutionary origin, its differentiation into races and sub-races, and the relation of physique to different conditions of life in the past. He considers, however, that future research will be mainly directed to the study of living populations, particularly in regard to problems of human genetics. An investigation of the latter kind is described by A. C. Stevenson, who summarizes the results of an examination of population genetics in Northern Ireland. Experimental work is also the subject of A. E. Mourant and of N. A. Barnicot, the former being concerned primarily with organization for research in serology and the latter mainly with laboratory techniques in the study of

living populations. Kenneth P. Oakley describes physical anthropology in the British Museum, and J. M. Tanner discusses the place of human biology in medical education. J. S. Weiner's contribution is devoted to the same topic. He points out that there is a dearth of teaching in human genetics and considers that this ought to be remedied in the universities. Physical anthropology could be taught at an elementary level as an educational or 'liberal' discipline as well as at an advanced level as a specialized professional subject. Prof. J. Z. Young also makes a somewhat similar point, arguing that human biology can help medical students over the boundaries between physical science and the cultural sciences. L. S. Penrose contributes a short paper about human variability and adaptability, and Sir Solly Zuckerman sums up.

KENNETH LITTLE

TECHNOLOGY OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

A History of Technology

Edited by Charles Singer, E. J. Holmyard, A. R. Hall and Trevor I. Williams. Assisted by Y. Peel, J. R. Petty and M. Reeve. Vol. 4: The Industrial Revolution, c. 1750 to c. 1850. Pp. xxxiii+728+48 plates. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1958.) 168s. net.

WHEREAS each of the first two volumes of this great history holds some thousands of years between its covers, and the third about two hundred and fifty, this fourth volume covers only a hundred—from 1750 to 1850, the period of the Industrial Revolution. But what a hundred years! Although the Renaissance and the invention of printing had brought a liberation of men's minds, their daily way of life remained little changed from the days of the Roman emperors. Their clothes were still woven on hand looms, they still struck fire from flint, still travelled by sail and horseback and still battered each other to death with axe and sword. The changes which began in the middle of the eighteenth century well merit the word 'revolution' and it was happy for England that her revolution took this form and belonged particularly to her.

The first chapters of the book are devoted to farming (by O. Beaumont, J. W. Y. Higgs and G. E. Fussell) and they are followed by an unexpected chapter on fish preservation (with a note on whaling), covering its entire history. After chapters on mining and the extraction of metals (the first extending up to 1875, for occasionally the articles rightly over-run the Industrial Revolution), the dominant subject of power is dealt with in three masterly essays. Prof. R. J. Forbes writes on the general development of motive power up to 1850, the late Dr. H. W. Dickinson deals specifically with the steam engine (a miracle of condensation, in both senses) and his successor at the Science Museum, A. Stowers, gives a concise history of waterwheels from 1500 up to 1850, referring much to the work of John Smeaton, "who could not touch anything without improving it" and whose name occurs *passim* throughout this volume.

Having established the basic elements of the Industrial Revolution—power and the metals—the development of the manufactures comes under discussion. It would have been impossible to describe all the by-ways of industrial chemistry in such a work as this, so Dr. E. J. Holmyard writes on the