

ism", "Development of the Individual", etc., each of which is examined from a historical point of view.

It is therefore an ambitious book, but as an introduction to the study of living things (which is the sub-title) it seems to me to fall a bit short of the mark. For example, Dr. Singer has chosen his end-point at about 1900. This is sixty years ago, and since that time biology has progressed so quickly and so far that the average reader and television viewer will wonder where he can find the links between this book and the science he sees and hears about him every day. It is realized that to write an up-to-the-minute history of biology is beyond the scope of any man, but when the first edition of this book was published in 1931 it was only thirty years out-of-date, whereas, although additions have been made, it is now sixty years behind the times.

It is proper that a 'history' should contain the names of many people, places and things. But it is bewildering to someone seeking an introduction to find so many things, dates and people on each page and my reaction was to begin to skip certain paragraphs as contributing too little to the main theme.

Nevertheless this book is not simply a compendium and it clearly is a work of scholarship and insight. I found it interesting, stimulating, and in places almost exciting. It is well written and illustrated with much to give to both professional and amateur biologists, and if it has its faults they spring more from the dual task which Dr. Singer has set himself than from any deficiencies in style or material.

A. R. GEMMELL

MYCENÆAN AND CLASSICAL GREECE

The Annual of the British School at Athens

No. 52, 1957. Pp. viii+264+50 plates. (London: The British School at Athens, 1959.) 63s. net.

THIS is an interesting number. J. Boardman writes on "Early Euboean Pottery and History", and re-opens the question whether the "Chalcidian" ware of the sixth century B.C., assigned by fashionable archaeologists to Italiote workshops, was in fact made in Chalcis after all. Euboic letter-forms show, he thinks, close contact between Euboea and Phoenicia in the eighth century B.C. The notorious early war between Chalcis and Eretria for the Lelantine Plain is dated by most scholars around 700 B.C., and supposed to have ended in the triumph of Chalcis. Boardman points out, however, that possession of the plain, necessary to Chalcis, matters little to Eretria, and that Eretria apparently suffered no material setbacks between 800 and 600. I wonder whether one can go farther, and put the end of the war, the Chalcidian victory and the rise of Chalcidian ware all well into the sixth century. This is a very stimulating paper.

A. Andrewes considers early Hellenistic lists of *patrai* in Kamiros. At this date, they were subdivisions of local tribes, and represented a complicated modification of the earlier gentile *patrai*.

V. Karageorghis identifies a Mycenæan vase-painter working in the Levant, who favoured chalices and bowls among shapes, and animal protomae among ornaments.

R. A. Higgins re-examines the Aegina Treasure, now in the British Museum, which recent scholars

have dated at about 800 B.C. He demonstrates that, however it reached Aegina, it is mostly, perhaps entirely, Middle Minoan, of about the seventeenth century, and close in style to the treasure of Mallia. His arguments seem conclusive and important.

G. E. Bean and J. M. Cook continue their survey of the Carian Coasts. They retail evidence for their view that classical Cnidus was at Burgaz, near Datca, and that the classical Triopion, at Kumyer near by, had an enormous sea-wall. They also examine the large walled city of Theangela, in their view a creation of Mausolus. But they attribute the large landward wall of Iasus to the late-fifth-century Persian rebel, Amorges, the ally of Athens. Moreover, they believe that at Meropis, on Cos, the Athenians set up their own copy, in Attic lettering, of the famous monetary decree of about 449 B.C., because they had an Athenian station there. The argument is interesting, although we could not have inferred from the decree that coins with the legends "KOION" and "KOS" would soon afterwards be struck at Meropis. Indeed, the wording of the decree seems to give a monopoly of striking to the mint at Athens. This article sturdily and refreshingly rebuts various pedantic dogmas of Louis Robert.

T. E. Jones, L. H. Sackett and C. W. T. Eliot survey the Dēma, the famous westward-facing wall between the Athenian and Thriasian Plains, and conclude that it dates from the years of panic after Chaeronea (338 B.C.). They note that its plan uses the "indented trace", here closely resembling the landward wall of Iasus, which they date (p. 182) to the fourth century. They were unaware, of course, of Cook and Bean; and it is amusing to see these various dates put forward in one annual.

The number also includes some stray linear *B* tablets from Cnossus, published by John Chadwick, the last harvest of Wace's campaigns at Mycenae, R. Hope Simpson's arguments for a Mycenæan Messene and Sinclair Hood's account of a tower and wall of c. 300 B.C. near the Zafer Papoura cemetery at Cnossus.

HUGH PLOMMER

BIOCHEMISTRY OF HUMAN GENETICS

Human Biochemical Genetics

By Dr. H. Harris. Pp. viii+310. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1959.) 37s. 6d. net.

NO subject in biology is of greater current interest than genetics, and the genetics of human beings is becoming of immense practical importance. It is ironical that most of our knowledge of human genetics comes from a very few fields—in particular blood groups and biochemistry. Several excellent treatises on blood groups are available, but this book by Dr. Harris is the first comprehensive text on the latter field.

In his introduction Prof. L. S. Penrose rightly remarks that the publication of A. E. Garrod's classic "Inborn Errors of Metabolism" marked the beginning of a revolution in genetics. Yet its fruits are slow to ripen. From the last edition of Garrod's book in 1923 until Dr. Harris published his previous work "Introduction to Human Biochemical Genetics", twenty years passed, during which time very little progress was made in human biochemical genetics. Since then a flood of new and fascinating work has