

Mambu

A Melanesian Millennium. By Dr. Kenelm Burridge. Pp. xxiii+296+17 plates (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1960.) 42s. net.

MAMBU, pidgin English for bamboo, is in this work a name of a prophet of a millenium in which the spirits of the dead will bring the tools and consumers' goods of a developed culture for free distribution among their descendants of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, who were recently of modern neolithic culture. The millenarian cargo-cult described began in the Territory more than sixty years ago, and has been previously discussed by several authors, including Haddon and Chinnery, Lawrence, Mead, Williams, Hanneman and Worsley. The cult has been viewed with some distaste by missionaries such as Hanneman, who notes that it is materialistic, and its prophets have, on occasion, been arrested by the administration, as they sometimes encouraged people to take no care for their self-subsistence, to slaughter their pigs and to build large and very quickly disused houses intended for the reception of the revenants with the tools and goods. Moreover, the prophets have sometimes preached that the secret of wealth was magical and was withheld from Papuans by missionaries, administrators, traders and settlers. There has not been a grave threat in the cult. Indeed, Hanneman noted with some disapproval of it that peoples of other countries organized revolutions, elections, changes of government, strikes and the writing of books on capitalism, democracy and utopia with aims of improving living conditions. The general idea in the discouragement of cargo-cult prophets has probably been to gain time until greater facilities for technical education are made available in the Territory, and until there are more Papuan students with an Australian education returned to it.

Dr. Kenelm Burridge describes incidents of the cargo cult in the Madang district and on the Island of Manam in good literary style and with a sense of the humour of situations. In particular, he discusses myths and dreams with appreciation of them, and what he terms the triangle of administrators, missionaries and Papuans with a detailed account of their angles.

R. F. FORTUNE

Fiori delle Ande

Da Alfonso Vinci. Pp. 68 (70 illustrations). (Bari: Leonardo da Vinci Editrice, 1960.) 1,500 lire.

THIS is the first pocket flower-book, of the kind so well known to us in Europe, for the Andes and perhaps for the whole of South America. The area covered is the complex series of sierras and páramos above Mérida, in Venezuela, but many of the plants illustrated have wide distributions in the Andes. The excellent short introduction, in Italian, describing the physical features, climate, geology and vegetation zones of the region, is far above the head of the average tourist and is more suited to the highly educated traveller or trained naturalist. Following this are three coloured illustrations of the three zones, tierra caliente, templada and fría. Then come the small pictures, 66 in number and also in colour, of individual flowers. The presentation of these is not worthy of the introduction, and has obviously been put together with undue haste. Many of the plants are described as "specie non determinata" or are assigned

to wildly wrong families, when the identification is obvious to any botanist familiar with this flora. Yet the author thanks two distinguished local botanists for their help. It is a pity that this attractive little forerunner has been spoiled by such haste or lack of care. Even in the introduction there is the statement that *Draba* and *Pringlea*, in Cruciferae, are represented on the Andes, in the Alps and on the remote island of Kerguelen! At the top of p. 11 the second and third lines have been transposed.

N. Y. SANDWITH

Fundamentals of Nutrition

By E. W. Crampton and L. E. Lloyd. (Series of Books in Agricultural Science.) Pp. xi+494. (San Francisco and London: W. H. Freeman and Company, 1959.) 50s.

IN this text-book, which is planned as an introductory course in human and animal nutrition, related disciplines are briefly discussed in an opening chapter. The first section is concerned with nutrients and composition of the animal and of foods. In five further sections the subject is developed with regard to metabolism of protein, fat and carbohydrate, the nature of vitamins and of mineral elements, experimental studies on nutrition and nutrient requirements for man and animals. The text is illustrated with simplified diagrammatic representations of metabolic pathways and other physiological processes. Reading lists are appended to every chapter to encourage the student to become aware of the expanding literature on the subject of nutrition. The book would be a useful adjunct to a course in physiology where general principles of nutrition must be taught. While it does not set out to be a complete treatise on nutrition it does provide a good background to a wider study of the subject and can be recommended as a useful introduction to a rapidly growing science.

A. M. COPPING

Socrates and the Animals

By Dr. Elena Quarelli. Translated from the Italian by Kathleen Speight. Pp. 160. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 1960.) 12s. 6d. net.

MANY people are sentimental where animals are concerned, and attribute to them qualities that they do not possess—even anthropomorphic. Others go to the opposite extreme and dismiss them as objects incapable of life or feeling. In this book Dr. Elena Quarelli investigates the problem whether animals possess immortal souls. She does this both philosophically and logically.

She seeks information from Ancient Greek thinkers such as Aristotle and Plato, from the Bible and official representatives of Christian teaching, and from contemporary zoologists and animal psychologists. Her own theories are backed by personal experience of animals, and her anecdotes make interesting and amusing reading.

It was impossible to limit her inquiry solely to the animal world; the problem had to be seen within the context of the universe as a whole. She studies animals in relation to the whole purpose and meaning of life, including human beings. The book therefore has a sincerely religious and deep-thinking basis.

The writer combines a sympathetic but unprejudiced approach to the problem. Her findings will delight many, and can offend none.

B. J. G. MAITLAND