

interest. It is at least stimulating for an anthropologist to read Professor Vos' view that in understanding such behaviour the social structural approach of anthropology is insufficient and is complemented by "culturally orientated psychology, utilizing a dynamic as well as a structural approach to personality". Social anthropology and social psychology may thus provide two dimensions or perspectives of the caste situation. For instance, one can understand the pollution and purity concepts of the caste system both in social and psychological terms.

The book ranges widely over other topics including racism in Europe, with particular reference to the Jews. The Napoleonic and post-Napoleonic growth of anti-Semitism is attributed to the rise of nationalism, the economic interests of Britain and France especially, and also to the false "biological" deductions of racists. Moreover, there is belief in a "Jewish conspiracy", of long standing in Europe, which culminates in the Nazi attitudes and behaviour towards the Jews, largely, though not entirely, for this very reason. Convincing attempts are made to argue the psycho-analytical explanation of anti-Semitism.

There is an admirable description of the caste situation in modern Japan, an account of slavery in classical antiquity, and of Latin American slavery compared with that in North America. These, among other topics, constitute the subject matter of this interesting and authoritative work which is both absorbing and stimulating as a summary of some modern views on caste and race.

E. SUNDERLAND

## ANCIENTS IN AFRICA

### Iron Age Cultures in Zambia

(Kalomo and Kangila.) Vol. 1. By Brian M. Fagan. Pp. xv + 232 + 15 plates. (London: Chatto and Windus, Ltd., 1967.) 84s. net.

THE first of two volumes, published in the Robins series under the joint imprint of Chatto and Windus and the National Museum of Zambia on "The Iron Age Cultures of Zambia", will be a welcome and essential addition to all libraries specializing in African archaeology.

After four introductory chapters placing the Kalomo Culture in archaeological and environmental perspective, Dr Fagan describes the results of the excavations at its three main sites, of which Isamu Pati is the biggest and most rewarding. He rightly lays great stress on the ecological and economic aspects of the Kalomo and Kangila cultures which are seen as early Iron Age subsistence economies largely isolated from and unaffected by the corridors of trade.

The archaeological evidence is fully presented and on the whole well illustrated, but it is perhaps regrettable that "an account of excavation methods" and "our experience with the problem of large-scale excavations of iron-age settlements" promised for "some future date" could not have been included. They would certainly be welcome in the second volume, and could perhaps be invaluable for archaeologists elsewhere in Africa struggling to find unmistakable evidence of earthen floors and walls where these have been puddled and built in place.

The site photographs are mostly of high quality, in contrast to a few of those taken in the laboratory (especially plate 9) which should for clarity have been retaken. The maps are useful, though of the four distinct regions of iron-age settlement enumerated on page 16 only one, the Kafue River valley, is clearly marked on any of the maps, the Batoka plateau and the Gwembe valley not appearing by name anywhere. Nor is it possible to find either Machili or Lonze.

It must be hoped that the standard of draughtsmanship shown in the drawings of pottery and iron objects established by Christianson in *Inventaria Archaeologia Africana*

as well as here will be maintained by future archaeological publications on African sites.

Without quarrelling with the price of four guineas for a book of this kind which by its nature is bound to have a relatively small circulation, the buyer could be forgiven for expecting a high standard of production. On opening the book for the first time, pages 199 to 202 fell out, presumably because the stitching machine had just missed this particular folio; it can, of course, be pasted back, but this kind of imperfection could only be excused if the overall book production maintained a higher standard. But the layout of the book and its typography (the map in Fig. 4 is largely unreadable) seem to be mediocre and do not do justice to the importance of the text and of the illustrations which support it.

BERNARD FAGG

## FOSSILS UPON FOSSILS

### Vertebrate Paleontology

By Alfred Sherwood Romer. Third edition. Pp. viii + 468. (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1966.) \$10; 72s.

It is twenty-two years since the second edition of *Vertebrate Paleontology*. During that time there have been spectacular advances in the palaeontology of almost all vertebrate classes. Many new fossils have been found and the descriptions of these, together with re-evaluations of many others, have led to changes in the interpretation of vertebrate phylogeny.

The new "Romer" incorporates most of these developments and is very welcome. It is satisfactory to find the placoderms divided to provide tentative ancestors for the main fish lines. The modern Amphibia are now to be considered more closely related to one another than to any of the fossil groups and, although the author is loath to admit it, the impression that emerges from reading the chapter on Amphibia is that they may be polyphyletic. The change in evolutionary thinking that has pushed back the origins of groups and, consequently, accepted polyphyly is given strong, if only implicit, support throughout the book.

The completely revised classification provides a useful modern system but, in some cases, the reasons for the revision are not made clear in the text. Conversely, the text tells of aglossan anurans and potamogalid shrews which are not in the classification table.

The new double column format makes the book awkward to shelve, but it has permitted some excellent new diagrams such as those of *Squadoraja* and the family trees of mammal-like reptiles.

WILMA GEORGE

## INDEX OF ABSORPTION SPECTRA

### Handbook of Ultraviolet and Visible Absorption Spectra of Organic Compounds

By Kenzo Hirayama. Pp. 642. (New York: Plenum Press Data Division, 1967.) \$40.

FOR several years Dr. Hirayama has been collecting and classifying the published ultra-violet and visible absorption data of organic compounds for inclusion in a twenty-five volume *Comprehensive System of Organic Chemistry*, which was published in Tokyo. He has now brought together in one volume the appropriate optical data concerning more than eight thousand compounds, together with more than fifteen hundred references to the original sources.

The complete spectral absorption curve in the ultra-violet and visible regions provides a complete finger-print for the identification of a chemical compound, but the