

New aspect of old subject

Palaeoeconomy. (Second Volume of Papers in Economic Prehistory. Edited by E. S. Higgs. Pp. xiii+244. (Cambridge University Press: London, 1974.) £8.50; \$25.00.

THE first volume of *Papers in Economic Prehistory* (edited by E. S. Higgs, 1972) established the theoretical foundation for this major research project; the present volume concentrates on applications of the new methodology to field situations. For newcomers, there is a brief glossary of terms used and a justification of the general approach in a short but provocative review by Higgs and Jarman. They conclude that archaeology should now concern itself with searching for natural laws governing human behaviour, and that the primary adaptation to the environment is in the management of the household; therefore, the 'palaeoeconomic' approach to archaeology should be the most rewarding.

The remaining five papers in the volume are presented to justify this viewpoint. Wilkinson argues that 20th century studies on musk ox behaviour can be extrapolated back to predict the ways in which musk oxen could have been exploited prehistorically, and that these predictions are supported by the archaeological record. Sturdy's analysis of reindeer economies introduces a theme shared by several of the other papers: the difficulty of detecting seasonal mobility (such as transhumance) when archaeological remains recovered from sites of different seasonal activities of the same cultural group may differ as much as remains from quite unrelated cultural groups. Here, analyses of the economic potential of the territory around the archaeological sites may help by providing some indication of seasonal interdependence of areas of summer and winter grazing neither of which alone could provide year-round subsistence. Thus Barker, and Jarman and Webley, working in different parts of Italy, show that patterns of transhumance recorded in historical times probably had their roots in the seasonal migrations of Palaeolithic hunters and developed throughout the Neolithic as stock were moved between lowlands and highlands for grazing.

The two papers on Italian prehistory, and that by Dennell and Webley on Bulgaria, also show that when intensive site surveys and analyses are carried out, the usual cultural and chronological divisions (Palaeolithic, Neolithic, and so on) become rather meaningless. The studies reported here suggest more diversity within cultural

periods and also more continuity between cultural periods than has been accepted traditionally.

Appendices include a guide to methods for carrying out site catchment analysis in the field and a discussion by Vita-Finzi of "related territories" and alluvial sediments. There are many maps and figures and these have presumably helped to push the book's price into the range in which libraries will be the chief purchasers.

Barbara Pickersgill

Fowl histology

The Histology of the Fowl. By R. D. Hodges. Pp. xv+648. (Academic: London and New York, November 1974.) £13.50; \$35.00.

THE need for a comprehensive work on the histology of the fowl has been apparent for many years. With this volume Dr Hodges has not only met this requirement but has also produced a definitive text for all those engaged in teaching or research on the domestic fowl. In 10 lucidly written and authoritative chapters the author has covered all the systems of the body and has synthesised the widely scattered literature into an eminently readable form. Not content with the descriptions of others, Dr Hodges has himself painstakingly studied the fowl, tissue by tissue, and the resultant descriptions are a distillate of wide reading and critical evaluation by an experience observer.

Each chapter is based mainly on conventional microscopy and is extensively illustrated with photomicrographs and line drawings. Just a few of these fall short of the highest quality and should be replaced in subsequent editions. Electron microscope and histochemical studies are also described, carefully assessed and presented in tabular form for the convenience of the reader. Where controversy exists, as in the mode of formation of the gizzard lining, the author evaluates the evidence and offers the reader his reasoned conclusions.

The descriptions of the reproductive, blood, circulatory, lymphatic and respiratory systems are notable for their clarity and provide clear guidelines in fields where there has been much terminological confusion. They will be particularly useful to those engaged in physiological studies or research in avian diseases.

To many, not the least valuable part of this book will be the extensive lists of references to the avian histological literature which are provided at the end of each chapter. There can be little doubt that this volume will become the standard work on the histology of the fowl.

K. J. Hill

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