

Some information, it is believed, about the type of societies into which pre-human ancestors were organised, can be obtained from studies of the social structure of living Primates and here the contrast between human and sub-human Primate groups—first established by classical studies thirty years ago—has been well born out by more modern and detailed field studies, some of whose findings are reported in later pages of this monograph.

But the climax of the volume is in the chapters dealing with the fossil remains of the Australopithecinae and with accounts of what is known of later human development in such regions as Morocco—themselves also minor anthropological treasure troves of fossil human and supposed pre-human remains.

But it can only be regretted that the accounts of these fascinating ape-like fossils, claimed by so many as human ancestors, should present this and only this view. One can, in fact read and re-read this book without ever gaining one semblance of doubt that such views are other than universally accepted or tenable in the face of critical examination. But this is not so, even though one's eye wanders in vain through the hundred pages of discussion of these papers without finding a single cautionary note. The symposium thus leads a reader to an apparently unified conclusion: man originated from the Australopithecinae (or forms akin to them) probably in South or East Africa while the varied selective forces produced as a result of climatic and other subsequent changes have resulted in the almost amazing variety of human groups now indigenous to the continent.

That the second part of this conclusion is valid is a thesis which may cause little dispute. But it can well be enquired whether or not the first proposition could hold water in the face of a careful study of whether or not the very ecological and climatic conditions and changes which are so valuably mapped out in the present volume, could have been equally suitable for the evolution of varieties of apes, some differing perceptibly from those still extant. Conversely, it could be enquired whether or not such conditions could have equally resulted in the extinction of all but the few surviving ape groups. Whether or not the Australopithecinae could fall into such an extinct category is a topic that few would dare to discuss. But for those sufficiently audacious, there is in these fossils, an assurance of many years of stimulating, albeit arduous, metrical study.

E. H. ASHTON.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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- EAR, NOSE AND THROAT NURSING. F. Boyes Korkis. J. & A. Churchill Ltd., London, W. I. 1965. Pp. 178. 2/6s.
- BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS. Ed. J. E. Meade and A. S. Parkes. Oliver and Boyd Ltd., Edinburgh, I. 1965. Pp. 226. 50s.
- ORGANISATION AND EVOLUTION IN PLANTS. C. W. Wardlaw. Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. Harlow, Essex. 1965. Pp. 449. 60s.