

such as the origin of death, causes of death, disposal of the dead, dread of the spirit, mourning, taboo, the special function of women in mourning rites, and so forth, are examined in detail. She deals "rather cavalierly", as Dr. Goldenweiser puts it in his preface, with Spencer, Tylor, Frazer, Rivers, and others; but whether her criticism is also judicious, it may be left to the reader to decide. Her own conclusion is that "we have no authority to speak of a uniform line of development which carries man from one stage to another", while certain kinds of parallel sequence which make for an advance in cultural development are thought to be due "not so much to historical causes as to psychological ones". Thus the author's final position represents a compromise between the evolutionary point of view and that of the historical school. The death complex is regarded as in part composed of certain inherent psychic features, and the only elements which are held to be exclusively characteristic of the death situation are mourning customs as such and the ideas in regard to the life after death.

*The Rôle of Research in the Development of Forestry in North America.* By I. W. Bailey and H. A. Spoehr. Pp. xiv + 118. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1929.) 6s. net.

THE primary object of this book is, the authors state, to determine how and to what extent certain categories of the natural sciences may be of service to silviculture during different stages of its development. In connexion with the sciences, the authors consider that there are two distinct methods of investigating complex biological phenomena—one the extensive observational method of the descriptive sciences, and the other the intensive analytical method of the basic experimental sciences.

The subject is dealt with under the heads: Agriculture as contrasted with silviculture; research and its application in silviculture as contrasted with agriculture and medicine; present status of forestry in the United States; existing agencies for descriptive and empirical investigation in forestry; can research in the basic experimental aspects of forestry be developed and handled adequately by existing agencies; and, finally, new agencies required for research, particularly in the fundamental physiological and ecological aspects of forestry. There is much in this little book which should appeal to a wider circle of foresters than those in North America for whom it is especially written; the authors may be congratulated on a most useful and interesting piece of work.

*Essays and Addresses: Sociological, Biological and Psychological.* By a Surgeon. Pp. xiii + 277. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS book is a collection of lectures, addresses, and articles published during the last twenty years, recording thoughts and opinions on various social problems approached from the biological point of view. Although the individual chapter subjects vary considerably, three fundamental principles are apparent throughout the volume. They are the

necessity for a fuller recognition of the influence of evolution in all human affairs, the importance of hereditary constitution, and the need for a closer application of biological principles in the attempt to solve social problems. The conclusions put forward are not concerned with theories and principles alone. In a discussion of some causes of racial decay, a practical method of national stocktaking is suggested, a means of ascertaining quality as well as quantity. As the considered opinions of one who combines a scientific training with a close study of racial welfare requirements, and who is held in the highest esteem in his own profession—the authorship is but thinly veiled—this book merits the attention of all whose duty it is to guide legislation as applied to the improvement of national health.

*The Archæology of Roman Britain.* By R. G. Collingwood. (Methuen's Handbooks of Archæology.) Pp. xvi + 293 + 8 plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 16s. net.

THIS is a book which was badly needed indeed. The literature of Roman Britain is highly specialised, difficult of access, and extremely technical. Mr. Collingwood has aimed at supplying the elementary but fundamental knowledge which is essential in entering upon the study of Romano-British culture. Still more will it help those who, not being specialists, wish to follow intelligently the reports of results which are being achieved season by season on a number of sites up and down the country. Each of the different classes of antiquities is here described in detail—roads, camps, forts, towns, villas, temples, native settlements, and so forth. Especially valuable are the chapters which deal with the pottery, both Samian and coarse ware. The chapter dealing with the latter is of interest not merely to the beginner but also to the expert, for in it Mr. Collingwood has made a first attempt to form a series of nearly a hundred dated types. The very full illustration from drawings by the author, both in this chapter and in that dealing with brooches, will be found invaluable. Mr. Collingwood has been at great pains to give every assistance to the student.

*The Truth about Cancer.* Published for the British Empire Cancer Campaign. Pp. xv + 124. (London: John Murray, 1930.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE various committees of the British Empire Cancer Campaign which have been concerned in the preparation of this small book for the general public have succeeded very well in a difficult task. The 'man in the street' is perhaps not much concerned to understand the nature of malignant tumours, but he will certainly be less liable to die of cancer if he will absorb the broad facts about its causation and treatment which are set out so plainly here. More stress might have been laid on prevention, on the special efficacy of tar and soot in causation, on the lessons to be learned from the fact that industrial labourers have much more cancer than professional men. The account of the early symptoms is particularly well done, and should bring many people to their doctors at a time when a cure is reasonably within range.