

## Short Reviews

## Anthropology and Archæology

*Israel: from its Beginnings to the Middle of the Eighth Century.* By Prof. Adolphe Lods. Translated by Prof. S. H. Hooke. (The History of Civilization Series.) Pp. xxiv+512+16 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1932.) 25s. net.

"THE unique importance of the people of Israel," says M. Lods, "is due to its religion"; but he adds that the study of the origin and development of that religion depends upon the success of a number of preliminary or subsidiary investigations. He therefore surveys the archæology, history and social, cultural and religious development of Palestine under three main heads: first, of the people who inhabited the area before the settlement of the Hebrews; secondly, of the Hebrews themselves before they entered it; and thirdly of the Hebrews after the settlement, when the two streams of cultures had coalesced to produce the characteristic Hebraic system prior to the middle of the eighth century before our era.

It will be obvious that if the field covered by Mr. Lods is one to which the greatest interest is attached owing to its influence in the development of the modern cultures of Christianity and Islam, it is also one into which conjecture enters largely. Upon the major controversial issues such as the ethnic character of the early inhabitants of Palestine and their relations with the Hebrews, the sojourn in Egypt and the Exodus therefrom, M. Lods displays a wise conservatism. He has not allowed himself to be led away by recent tendencies to regard every archæological discovery as a confirmation of the Bible text. The facts are placed before the reader and discussed thoroughly and dispassionately. For this, but not for this alone, M. Lods's book must be accounted a valuable addition to the already extensive literature of the subject.

(1) *Social Anthropology.* By Dr. Paul Radin. (McGraw-Hill Publications in Sociology.) Pp. xii+432. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1932.) 21s. net.

(2) *Economics in Primitive Communities.* By Prof. Richard Thurnwald. (Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures.) Pp. xiv+314. (London: Oxford University Press, 1932.) 25s. net.

(1) THE aim of Dr. Radin's textbook of social anthropology is to emphasise man's positive achievement in social organisation and to avoid the undue stress hitherto laid on magic and the irrational side of primitive man's life. He has also avoided general theoretical discussion except in an introductory chapter in which he submits ethnological theories to a very fair and unbiased critical examination. His method has been to

set himself a number of specific tasks in description such as the organisation of the State, the organisation of law and custom, economics and industrial life, and the like and to show by a concrete example, the description of a typical tribe or people, how primitive man has solved the specific problem the author has in mind. It is his view that "every type of societal organisation can be encountered among primitive peoples . . . [excepting] representative government".

(2) Dr. Thurnwald, on the other hand, while covering in part the same ground as Dr. Radin, analyses primitive economics by comparative rather than unitary methods, with the view of showing the essential difference in approach to economic problems in a primitive community from that of modern society, owing to the conception of the close interrelation between members and units in a group. It is also his object to show the unreality of the 'three stages' of primitive economic development and the conception of cultural advance along a single line only of previous economic theory, owing to the domination of the views of Darwin and Spencer in the last century. He has brought together a valuable array of facts bearing not merely on food-supply—as he says, rightly, too exclusively the pre-occupation of previous theory—but also on the types of economic life, forms of economic activity, including handicraft, wages, trade, distribution, ownership, etc., and the development of economic methods and simple technical skill, this last illustrated by a series of telling diagrams.

## Biology

*Scientific Riddles.* By Sir J. Arthur Thomson. Pp. 384. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1932.) 10s. 6d. net.

SIR Arthur Thomson divided his last book into four very unequal parts. The first consists of twenty-five brief chapters averaging four or five pages each, most of the titles of which end with a query mark: What is protoplasm? Why do we fall asleep? What are hormones? How does our hair turn grey? The second part contains fourteen somewhat longer chapters discussing such topics as homing, galls, walking in a circle and concluding with an amusing chapter on natural history in everyday conversation which recalls such phrases as 'proud as a peacock', 'raining cats and dogs' and others even more obscure. In Part 3 Sir Arthur treads the borderland between physiology and psychology and gives us six short chapters on animal intelligence, telepathy, dreams, and so on. In Part 4 he sets forth his views on the purpose of evolution, concluding with an epilogue on "The Wonder of the World".

Throughout the volume, Sir Arthur has given full measure of his immense store of biological knowledge, and in his characteristically delightful style.