

## Short Reviews

## Anthropology and Archæology

- (1) *The Andaman Islanders*. By Prof. A. R. Radcliffe Brown. Second edition. Pp. xiv + 510 + 20 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933.) 30s. net.
- (2) *On the Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Andaman Islands*. By Edward Horace Man. With Report of Researches into the Language of the South Andaman Island, by A. J. Ellis. Pp. xxxii + 224 + 44 - 73 + 18 plates. (London: Royal Anthropological Institute, n.d.) n.p.
- (3) *The Nicobar Islands and their People*. By Edward Horace Man. With a Memoir contributed by Sir David Prain. Pp. x + 186 + 32 plates. (London: Royal Anthropological Institute, n.d.) n.p.

(1) PROF. RADCLIFFE-BROWN'S study of the Andaman Islanders, which was first published in 1922, is reprinted without change, save for the addition of a few pages on the Andaman languages. The author has also written a new preface, in which he explains more fully the principles upon which he worked, and expounds his view that the aim of social anthropology is the study of 'social integration'.

(2) The Royal Anthropological Institute has done good service to anthropology in reprinting the monograph on the Andaman Islanders by the late E. H. Man, which for long was regarded both for its method and its accuracy as a model ethnographical treatise. First published in 1885, and long out of print, it remains an invaluable record of a remarkable people at a comparatively early stage of their more intimate contact with Europeans.

(3) Papers on the peoples of the Nicobars contributed by the same author to the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* have been collected in this volume. The material as originally presented has been corrected and supplemented by the author's subsequent notes and additions. Sir David Prain has contributed a memoir of the author, in which he does full justice to his services to science, both as an anthropologist and as a helper in the research work of others.

*The New Knowledge about the Old Testament.*

By Sir Charles Marston. Pp. 182 + 6 plates. (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., 1933.) 5s. net.

IN promoting excavations on archæological sites in Palestine, Sir Charles Marston, who has earned the gratitude of all archæologists and students of Biblical research, has shown himself throughout a staunch supporter of tradition, as against the destructive efforts of textual criticism. Here he summarises the inferences which in his view may be drawn from recent excavation in the Near East in corroboration of the Biblical narrative. Of this material the evidence for the flood at Ur and

Kish are generally well known; but the implications of Prof. W. Garstang's discoveries at Jericho, which fix the fall of the city before Joshua at 1400 B.C. with but little margin of error, and the finds of Ras Shamra and the new light they throw on the use of an alphabetic script and the problem of monotheism, are not yet so widely appreciated. Sir Charles argues forcibly for the earlier dating by two hundred years of the Exodus and the entry of the Hebrews into Palestine, as a solution of the difficulties which arise in other parts of the Biblical text on the later dating. His explanation of the silence of the Hebrew records in regard to subsequent events mentioned in the Tel el Amarna letters is ingenious, and in the light of later history, plausible.

*Mexico before Cortez: an Account of the Daily Life, Religion and Ritual of the Aztecs and Kindred Peoples.* By J. Eric Thompson. Pp. x + 298 + 34 plates. (New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS small but compendious volume is a companion to "The History of the Maya", published by Mr. Thompson in collaboration with Dr. Gann two years ago. Together the two books form an excellent introduction to a knowledge of the history and civilisation of Central America up to and at the time of the Spanish conquest. The later book is perhaps a little more popular in tone, and the interest of its matter slightly less, if the reader is archæologically inclined. Mr. Thompson describes the chief characteristics of Aztec culture—social and military organisation, arts and crafts, religion, calendar and feasts, and temples and tombs. For the last section he surveys briefly the chief results of archæological exploration in Mexico up to the date of writing. For the other sections, he has made a full and judicious use of the writings of the chroniclers, especially in describing the most prominent feature in Aztec culture, at least as known to us, namely, their addiction to human sacrifice. Mr. Thompson rejects 'diffusion' though he admits that there may be something to be said for the spread of cultural influence from the Pacific.

## Biology

*Le Haut-Jura neuchâtelois nord-occidental.* Par Prof. Henri Spinner. (Materiaux pour le levé géobotanique de la Suisse, Fascicule 17: Commission phytogéographique de la Société helvétique des Sciences naturelles.) Pp. 197 + 8 plates. (Bern and Berlin: Hans Huber, 1932.) 12 francs; 9.60 gold marks.

THIS contribution to the geobotany of Switzerland (the seventeenth in the series edited by Rübel and Brockmann-Jerosch) deals with an area on the western border of Switzerland of an altitude not exceeding 1,334 m. A full account is given of the geological, edaphic and climatic characteristics of