

SHORT REVIEWS

Foods and Feeding Habits of the Pedi

With Special Reference to Identification, Classification, Preparation and Nutritive Value of the Respective Foods. By Dr. P. J. Quin. Pp. xvii+278+134 plates. (Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 1959.) 70s.

DR. QUIN provides in this monograph an excellent summary of his work on Bantu nutrition in the Union of South Africa. Although he confines it to the Pedi tribe, most of the data are equally relevant for other Southern Bantu tribes, and social anthropologists, economists, and nutrition experts as well as agriculturists, botanists and entomologists from all parts of Africa will find it a mine of concise and accurate information on the food and feeding habits of the Southern Bantu. The early chapters deal with the plants, animals, reptiles and insects both domestic and wild which enter into Pedi diets. The reader is given not only their local Pedi, English and Afrikaans names but also their scientific names, and in many cases their nutritional composition. Where they happen to form a significant element of Pedi diet this is given in considerable detail; for example, one species of flying ant which the Pedi call *dintlwa* and the entomologists *Carebara vidua* contain, when in the flying stage, 25.2 per cent crude protein in the case of the male and 7.4 per cent in the case of the female. These chapters are followed by an examination and analysis of particular Pedi dishes and the work ends with a discussion of the Pedi dietary pattern, of modern tendencies in Southern Bantu dietary habits and of Pedi health. The supporting tables, plates and drawings are first class and there is a useful bibliography.

G. I. JONES

Religion in Plato and Cicero

By John E. Rexine. Pp. vii+72. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1959.) 2.75 dollars.

THIS interesting little book bears what amounts to the *imprimatur* of Prof. A. D. Nock, from whom the author has absorbed—and made his own—much of the recent classical tradition of Harvard University. It is an excellent record. These two law-givers, Plato the philosopher and Cicero the orator, have seldom been studied synoptically, and their aims compared. Plato is metaphysical, and important for us to-day is his attempt to set up the first system of natural theology. Cicero insists on the usefulness of the gods to the State, if they are properly handled. In any such plan, sanctions are always at hand to deal with offenders, whether poets or otherwise.

Historically, the significance for scientific thought is the clear indication that the Deity can be known from the study of natural phenomena. Later centuries were to bring mankind experience of a less optimistic kind, leading to a severe limitation of Platonic religion. In a word, Plato's conception is a preview of the *deus philosophorum* with whom the Christian God cannot be inconsistent, but who is transcendent, and to some extent 'wholly other'. With this in mind, the author's thesis is most illumin-

ating at the present stage of epistemological development in both theology and natural science.

For such a slender volume, there is a generous bibliography, well calculated to help further reading.

The Structure of Scientific Thought

An Introduction to Philosophy of Science. By Dr. Edward H. Madden. Pp. ix+381. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd., 1960.) 35s. net.

THIS volume is curiously constructed; it is an anthology the members of which are knit together by a series of introductions to each section. Thus, the value of the whole assemblage depends as much on the quality of these prefatory remarks as it does on the choice of the contributions themselves. The author's aim is to help students to understand the way in which scientific thought has been built up, taking examples from physics, probability, biology, psychology, axiology and so on, and presenting them in their original form. There are full references and an adequate bibliography.

Maybe this method will succeed in the United States: one cannot imagine it doing so in general, if only because the selection is so arbitrary, and somewhat weighted in favour of American sources. This is not necessarily a defect, but it tends to limit the book's appeal. The style of the several introductions is rather tiresome; there is much too much "you", as if the reader needed constant prodding. But the writer's heart is in the right place, he upholds science as a truly humanistic discipline, supreme in its own domain, and never self-conscious about being merely useful or fashionable.

The format of the collection is very attractive, though the large page size, carrying double columns, seems quite needless for a work of this character, and makes it difficult to house in an ordinary bookshelf.

F. I. G. RAWLINS

No Stone Unturned

An Almanac of North American Prehistory. By Louis A. Brennan. Pp. xii+370+8 plates. (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1960.) 25s. net.

THIS is a book written to propagate the idea that man first reached America more than 30,000 years ago, and that his development thereafter was completely independent and owed nothing to contacts with Asia. Only with the coming of the higher civilizations of Mexico and Peru does the author allow that something "cryptically oriental" began to "hover" over them, though he will not have anything so simple as long sea-voyages to account for it, but rather a chain of vanished islands which filtered the oriental influences into an attenuated form.

Mr. Brennan is a journalist by profession and his speech agrees thereto, but he is also a keen amateur archaeologist and knows the literature. He argues his case with great ingenuity, but not always with judgment. One of the weakest features of the whole thesis