

BOOK REVIEWS

Archaeological View

An Archeological Perspective. By Lewis R. Binford. Pp. xii+464. (Seminar: New York and London, June 1972.) \$11.95.

LEWIS BINFORD is unquestionably the most influential figure in archaeology today. The principal originator in America of the "new archaeology", with its methodological concern to set the structure and logic of archaeology on a more rigorously scientific footing, his ideas have stimulated much of the most interesting recent work on both sides of the Atlantic.

An Archeological Perspective is a selection of papers, many of them previously published in inaccessible periodicals, introduced and linked by connecting passages which are personal and autobiographical in nature. The papers together constitute the most thoughtful and critical discussion yet written of the problems of the interpretation of archaeological data. They are philosophical, dense and sometimes rather difficult to read. They form, however, as conveniently presented here, an indispensable basis for anyone seriously concerned with the scope and limitations of prehistoric archaeology. Taken together they rank, in my view, as the most important conceptual advance since Gordon Childe was formulating his own methodological basis nearly fifty years ago.

Some of these papers have already taken their place among the classics of archaeology, "A consideration of archaeological research design" (1964), for example, was the first serious discussion of the difficult problem of sampling in archaeological data collection. "Archaeological systematics and the study of culture process" (1965) introduced the systems approach to archaeology, and has stimulated much further work. "Post-Pleistocene adaptations" (1968) remains the clearest embodiment of the ideal that archaeological explanations should be very general, preferably of lawlike form, and offers the most intelligent and provoking general discussion available of the origins of farming.

Much of Binford's recent work has been directed towards the palaeolithic period, and "Model building, paradigms and the current state of palaeolithic research" is a new review of this field. It is a pity, however, that his innovatory paper (with S. R. Binford), "A preliminary analysis of functional variability in the Mousterian of Levallois facies" (*American Anthropologist*, 68, 238; 1966) is not included: as the first

application of factor analysis to archaeological data it is of real historical and methodological interest.

Among the papers relating to later periods, "Mortuary practices, their study and potential" (1971) will be useful to any archaeologist thinking seriously about funerary remains. And the extract from the Hatchery West excavation report, indeed the report as a whole, should be read by any field-worker grappling with the problems of rescue excavation.

None of these makes easy reading. In complete contrast, the introductory passages are autobiographical in content and colourful, frank and uninhibited in style—racy is the only word. If you wish to know what Binford thinks of Professor R. J. Braidwood for example (no love lost), it is unambiguously spelt out here. The historian of the future may value this—workers today will find it as entertaining, and perhaps as revealing, as Watson's *Double Helix*.

The book as a whole, like its author, is a lively combination of a tough mind undertaking highly original abstract analyses and a colourfully forceful personality. It offers a real insight into the arduous task, still far from complete, of elevating archaeological reasoning from the level of intuition to that of a rational discipline.

COLIN RENFREW

Psychosomatics

Physiology, Emotion and Psychosomatic Illness. Pp. viii+421. (Elsevier/Excerpta Medica / North - Holland: Amsterdam, London and New York, 1973.) Dfl. 53; \$16.50.

THIS is the book of a symposium held in April 1972. It is well produced, and has been published without excessive delay. There are seventeen papers. Each, with one exception, is followed by a discussion. The discussions are documented, and they have been edited to be coherent and concise; but plenty of hard-hitting comments remain.

The paper which lacks a discussion is the first, by R. A. Hinde, on the "Concepts of Emotion". This is not surprising: as Wittgenstein said, in psychology we have experimental methods and conceptual confusion, and problems and methods pass one another by. "Emotion", with all its meanings and use in diverse contexts, perhaps always does refer to "an interrelated set of questions"; but this does not ensure effective communication between people whose criteria of validity differ as much as those of psychiatrists and experimental psychologists.

After Hinde's chapter there are three on psychoanalytical themes: those by J. C. Nemiah and by G. L. Engel with A. H. Schmale give some readable case histories; one, by J. Sandler, on affect, illustrates some of the theoretical difficulties of psychological medicine and its perhaps inevitable separation from experimental science. At the end is a further group of psychiatric papers. M. Lader questions the value of the term "psychosomatic", but gives a general review of the "psychophysiological" approach to medicine. G. Tibblin and colleagues describe observations of great interest on cardiovascular function in relation to heart disease and to emotional states. P. Storey presents a series of cases of subarachnoid haemorrhage. J. Crinker and J. Hirsch provide an excellent account of the metabolic and behavioural correlates of obesity.

In the middle are eight chapters on experimental studies, mostly of laboratory mammals. J. A. Gray and E. Fonberg each contribute a chapter on the limbic system. B. E. Ginsburg writes on the unexpected topics of domestication and taming.

Several contributions are on cardio-respiratory function. That by M. A. Hofer concerns the heart function of infant mammals during separation from the mother. This chapter adds an ontogenetic dimension to the experimental studies but, as usual, theoretical links were hard to find. A. Zanchetti and his colleagues present another series of elegant experimental findings, on the cardiovascular changes of a cat faced with another cat, a dog or a mouse.

J. P. Henry and others describe some original observations concerning the pathogenic effects on mice of social isolation. In their experiments special attention is given to the catecholamines, blood pressure and social interactions. J. M. Weiss gives evidence that gastric histopathology in experimental animals is related to the amount of "coping" behaviour the animal performs, and the information it receives as a result of this behaviour. Weiss discusses this in terms of "psychological variables". (Under social pressure, he later defined "psychological" in terms of stressful external stimuli.) S. Levine and others, in a chapter entitled "Expectancy and the Pituitary-Adrenal System", show how the method of "operant conditioning" in a Skinner box can be used to investigate physiological changes that accompany habit formation.

In spite of the ability of the authors, this collection certainly confirms Wittgenstein's criticism. Nevertheless, I found it immensely interesting. Perhaps the participants would have gained more