

BOOK REVIEWS

BIOLOGY AND THE HUMAN SCIENCES

Edited by J.W.S. Pringle (Oxford). Oxford University Press, Oxford 1972. Bound volume with cover; 13.5 × 22.5 cm; VIII + 140 pages, including figures and tables; index. Price: £ 8.50 (approximately, \$ 22.00).

The collection of essays assembled in this booklet by Professor Pringle is based on a series of lectures given to commemorate the philosopher Herbert Spencer, who, in Pringle's words, "left his mark on our civilization in many different ways. He was the first to use the terms *heredity* and *evolution* in their modern sense, and his belief in the universality of the evolutionary processes deserves for him a better reputation than he usually now enjoys."

Evolutionary processes, or, more specifically, the biological evolution of man and the cultural evolution of human society, especially in the last two centuries with the development of urbanization and industrialization, have led our present society to be challenged by a number of problems that are basically biological in nature, but the economical, political, generally social, and moral, implications of which are such that it becomes difficult to make clearcut distinctions between classical disciplines and fields of competence. Here lie the roots of the so-called Human Sciences — a neologism with perhaps little formal value (what does it really define?), but the expression of a situation that calls for a multidisciplinary endeavour towards modern solutions of dramatic problems, such that no traditional branch of science ever had to face.

The essays are: (1) Aggression (by R.A. Hinde); (2) On Controlling Population Growth (by E. Grebenik); (3) Ecology and the Evolution of Social Ethics (by V.C. Wynne-Edwards);

(4) Linguistic Communication as a Biological Process (by George A. Miller); (5) Race, Class, and Culture (by C.D. Dearlington); and (6) Unique Aspects of Man's Evolution (by Th. Dobzhansky). They all basically deal with biological and cultural, general and specific human evolutionary processes, and with their impact on present human society.

GENERAL CYTOGENETICS

By J. Sybenga (Wageningen, The Netherlands). North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam-London/American Elsevier Publishing Company, New York 1972. Bound volume; 16 × 23 cm; XIV + 359 pages, including numerous figures and tables; index. Price: US \$ 24.60.

Although cytogenetics has come to include a number of different specializations and distinct objects of study, these may still all be unified by their common material basis, the chromosome, the composition, structure and behavior of which, are basically the same for all higher organisms.

The present textbook, translated from the original Dutch edition published in 1968, is essentially based on this premise. It consists of seven main chapters, in an attempt to give a fairly complete picture of the field of cytogenetics, from its biochemical, morphological, and cytological background, to the various aspects of recombination phenomena, chromosome specialization, structural variants, numerical variants genetic maps, and deviant cytogenetic system.

Beautifully produced and well illustrated, with examples mainly taken from the plant field, the book may be of large use to all genetic workers.