

Book Reviews

Il Divenire Biologico dell'Uomo

Man's Biological Becoming

By C. Corrain (Padova, Italy). Edizioni Calderini - Bologna 1971. Bound volume with cover; 16×23 cm; 493+XV pages; 203 black-and-white illustrations. Subject Index. Price: It. lire 6.000 (US \$ 11.00).

An elegant, neatly printed bound volume, with a jacket designed by Sergio Pozzi and drawings by Giuseppe Barbieri, has just been produced by the Italian publisher Calderini. Its author, Cleto Corrain, is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Padua. This volume of some 500 pages, entitled «Man's Biological Becoming», is completed by a clear and enlightening introduction as well as by a useful subject index.

Professor Corrain's first step is to undertake a rapid review of historical and scientific works related to man, from the «Periplus» of the Phoenician Hanno to the «Histories» of Herodotus, and up to the Eighteenth century, when, from the natural and medical sciences, the science of man stems and starts developing independently.

Although the work is based on the traditional conception of physical anthropology, the various populations reviewed are dealt with, not only from a strictly biological viewpoint, but, more broadly, in a cultural, ethnologic perspective. At a time when excessive specialization and partitioning of studies is the rule, Professor Corrain's work — the result of a sound scientific and cultural preparation — provides instead a complete and organic synthesis.

Chapter 1 deals with somatic traits and the techniques and most sophisticated instruments for their examination; chapter 2, with the variability of human traits measured by means of statistical techniques; and chap-

ter 3, with the study of the factors of such variability, namely, heredity and environment. Chapters 4 and 5 deal with sexual dimorphism and somatic growth, while chapters 6 and 7 stress the comparative importance of certain somatic and physiologic traits. In chapter 8, all living populations are classified. Finally, the last three chapters are devoted to primatology and human paleontology, and a synthesis of chronology and palethnology is also provided.

New light is thrown on the most recent theories thanks to these comparisons between modern and ancient humans and between the latter and fossils of other primates, as well as among present populations according to the different heredity, the different environments, and, within the same population, between different ages and sexes.

This complete and exhaustive picture is also presented in a simple and neat style, so that the book may be interesting and of use to the scientist as well as the layman.

GIANGARLO ALCIATI

The Genetics Markers of Human Immunoglobulins

By R. Grubb. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1970. Volume 9 in the series, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Biophysics, edited by A. Kleinzeller (Philadelphia), G. F. Springer (Evanston), and H. G. Wittmann (Berlin). Bound volume; 24×17 cm; XII+152 pages; 8 black-and-white illustrations. Subject Index. Price: US \$ 11.60.

This new monograph in the Springer-Verlag series on molecular biology deals with the following subjects: basic data concerning genetic human immunoglobulin markers; interpretation of immunological concepts and of notational terms in structural concepts,