

*A Bibliography of Sex Rites and Customs.* By ROGER GOODLAND.  
London: Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 1931. Demy 4to. Pp. 752.  
Price £3 3s.

This bibliography is a treasure-house of information and references on sex rites and customs, and will fill a long-existing want of all those who are in one way or another interested in these subjects. Anthropologists, ethnologists, ethologists, folklorists, sociologists, psychotherapists and other students will find many of their tasks in their search for references made easy.

In the first part of the volume, authors' names are arranged alphabetically. The name is followed by the date of birth, etc. Then the titles of his relevant works, with date and place of publication and publisher's name, are given, with short statements as to the subjects treated. No criticism is offered. It cannot, of course, be expected that even this stupendous work should be absolutely complete, but there were only a very few omissions among the great number of references we checked; the work, moreover, appears to be quite up to date. The bibliography is followed by a most valuable subject-index, which gives the names of the authors in each subject. Thus, for instance, under "Circumcision" over 70 names appear, and under "Sterility" no less than 621 names are given. The references to "symbolism" should be welcome to psycho-analysts. A subject which we miss in the index is the "*Fus primæ noctis*," though possibly many of the writers whose names appear under "marriage rites and customs" may have discussed this subject also. The subject-index occupies over thirty pages.

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*Fundamentals of Objective Psychology.* By JOHN DASHIELL.  
London: George Allen & Unwin, n.d. Large crown 8vo.  
Pp. xviii + 588. Price 16s.

If it is pointed out to the student that "objective psychology" is a contradiction in terms, and that psychology is essentially the science of psychic phenomena, the perusal of this book may be recommended to him with safety, for it is essential that the budding psychologist should be well versed in all the border sciences. Besides, the treatment of the subject in this book is not on strictly behaviouristic lines, and the title "*Fundamentals of Applied Psychology*" would perhaps have been more appropriate.

There are eighteen chapters. The first deals with the general nature of psychology as conceived by the author, emphasis being laid upon the interest in understanding human nature and the desire to get control. Anything of psychological interest about man is to be treated as a physical phenomenon in the broader sense of the term, as a natural occurrence in which material bodies effect energy changes. A little later (p. 13) we are told, "Psychology is to be considered as one of the biological sciences. Its distinction from other biological fields rests largely upon the emphasis that it places on man (or animal) *in his interaction with environmental*

*conditions.*" But such emphasis may also be placed on the interaction of plants with environmental conditions. Their behaviour ought, therefore, likewise to be included in the field of psychology! Chapter 2 deals with the general character of behaviour. Experiments with *Amœba*, *Paramecium*, *Stentor*, turtles and rats are given here as illustrations. Chapter 3, "The Analysis of Behaviour," deals with reflex arcs and reaction-time experiments. Chapter 4, "The Effectors," is purely physiological, Chapter 5, "The Receptors," likewise, the former dealing with muscles and glands, and the latter with sense-organs. The central nervous system is described in an elementary manner in Chapter 6, "The Connecting System." Chapter 7, "Reflexes and Integration of Action Units," gives the essentials of Sherrington's and Pavlov's work. The title of Chapter 8 is "Native Reaction Patterns." Drive and mechanism are shortly discussed, but instinct is dismissed in a foot-note as a "word." Gregarious activity and sex-differences are said not to be native pattern reactions, since they differ in different societies. In the following chapter, 9, the term *drive* gets a narrower meaning; it is defined as "the original source of energy that activates the human organism," and once the organism is set going the lines or directions along which it proceeds form the problem of *motives*. From the objective point of view *hunger* does not connote an experience, but is merely "vigorous rhythmic contractions of the walls of the empty stomach." A *sentiment* is a system of emotional tendencies, and the "complexes" of the psychoanalyst are really sentiments that operate pathologically. Some practical problems of motivation, such as army morale, are discussed in a way with which the academic psychologist will have no fault to find. A case of phobia is quoted which was cured by the chance discovery of the cause without the assistance of a psychopathologist. Chapter 10 is entitled "Postural Responses." Besides kinetic or phasic forms of reaction, we are told we should also recognize postural or tonic forms. Moods and emotional behaviour are counted among the latter. The author admits the difficulty of adequately defining "intelligence," "Intelligent Behaviour" being the subject of the following chapter. The various tests and scales are described; vocational guidance and heredity are touched upon.

Sixty pages are devoted to an interesting chapter on "Learning." After discussing biological fundamentals and basic phenomena, the acquiring, retaining, recalling, recognizing and improvement of memory are dealt with, mostly on orthodox lines, and the experimental methods generally used are described. On p. 346, where the author endeavours to explain inhibition and facilitation, he gets rather involved by talking about a stimulus becoming conditioned to a reaction, and the elementary student will hardly be able to follow him. In the explanation of paramnesia the author follows the now prevalent view that the experience is due to a partial, but not recognized, identity with some former experience, the "feeling of acquaintance" spreading over the whole new experience. The next chapter deals with "Perceiving." The acquirement of "meaning" is made quite clear to the beginner, but as a technical

term "meaning" appears to be studiously avoided; "habit response" is resorted to as the behaviouristic equivalent. (Fig. 84, to which reference is made on p. 387, is wrongly placed opposite p. 448 after Fig. 94.) The *Gestalt* psychology is approved of, and "an organism is said to be perceiving when it is adjusting not simply to the stimuli immediately and actually playing upon it but also to larger wholes, to objects and situations, of which the actual stimuli are only a part or a sign—thus preparing itself for appropriate overt response to those objects and situations."

"Social Behaviour" and "Language Habits" are dealt with on orthodox behaviouristic lines in the next two chapters. When describing inward or silent speech, the author tells us that because it is inaudible, "we need not jump to the conclusion that some new non-physical process of some new non-material entity is at work. Calling it a 'psychic process,' or a 'working of the mind,' only adds to our problems; it explains nothing. As natural scientists our quest is a search for mechanisms and events that can be described in terms of natural science—physical and objective things and processes." It seems incomprehensible that the behaviourist cannot grasp the fact that the science of behaviour is but a subsidiary part of psychology, that the psychic functions cognition, affection, conation, of which behaviour is but an occasional and partial outward manifestation, are the essential subjects of psychological study. Behaviourism, or objective psychology, is like the play of *Hamlet* with the character of the Prince of Denmark left out. "Knowledge is a hierarchy of generalized reaction-habits." That we should find under these circumstances a chapter on "Thinking" seems astonishing, but there it is—Chapter 17. Here we read, "The apparent inert attitude of philosophic reasoning, and the persistent activity of the paramecium repeatedly backing off from the drop of acid to turn itself a little to one side and renew its forward trials, are but the highest and lowest varieties of the struggle of living creatures to surmount their particular obstacles. They are both trial and error types of response."

Having studied man's behaviour analytically up to now, the last chapter of the book is devoted to man as a whole—to his personality. "A man's personality is his system of reactions and reaction-possibilities *in toto* as reviewed by fellow-members of society. It is the sum total of behaviour-trends manifested in his social adjustments." Methods for obtaining information by various tests are shortly indicated, and the statistical methods outlined.

The book is well printed. In parts it is too elementary and its exposition on too popular lines for students, whilst it is far too technical for the lay reader. The references to experimental work, with the exception of the classical German work, are mostly American. Recent English works are but rarely referred to. American slang may not please English readers, and there are several mis-spellings of foreign words.

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