

## BOOK NOTICES

### All about Virus Diseases

Anyone wishing to be brought up to date concerning virus diseases should read Seiffert's "Virus Diseases in Man, Animal and Plant." Here can be found a comprehensive survey of present day knowledge of the subject. The book is composed of six divisions. In the first division general concepts of vira and their behavior are discussed. The second and largest division takes up 182 pages, in which 78 virus diseases in man, animals and plants are discussed. One division is concerned with virus-like organisms and another with filtrable types of bacteria. One division takes up the various methods of virus investigation. The final section is a reference index.—*D. C. Rife.*

**Virus Diseases in Man, Animal and Plant.** Gustav Seiffert. VI Divisions, 332 pp. The Philosophical Library, New York. 1944.

### Genes and the Man

"Genes and the Man" may more appropriately be thought of as an elementary text book of human biology than as one of genetics. While genetic principles are stressed throughout, much of the book has to do with embryology and physiology. There are six chapters, which vary considerably in length. Chapter V, entitled "From Potentialities to Realization," is the longest, covering 128 pages, and is almost entirely devoted to human embryology. The shortest chapter, "On Growing Old," is only 23 pages in length, and, as one might surmise, deals with longevity. One chapter deals exclusively with sex, giving a discussion of the evolution of sexuality, as well as sex determination and sex-linked factors. The book contains a wealth of material and is well illustrated. "Genes and the Man" should make a good text for serious minded college students who take only one course dealing with human biology.—*D. C. Rife.*

**Genes and the Man.** Bentley Glass. VI Chapters, 386 pp. Columbia University Press. 1943.

### Alaska Diary

The late Ales Hrdlicka, one of the most widely known anthropologists in America, was Curator of Physical Anthropology at the United States National Museum for thirty-three years. In 1926 he decided to go to Alaska in search of evidence which would throw light upon the entry of man into the New World from Asia across Bering Strait. *Alaska Diary* consists of the daily record of this journey along with the day by day accounts of his three following expeditions made in 1929, 1930 and 1931.

Traveling by boat, the author explored the lower portions of the Yukon River, the Kuskokwim River, and the Nushagak River. The diary, which makes no pretense to literary style, deals largely with details of traveling through a poorly settled country and with the minor hardships encountered on the trips. He stopped at "old" and "new" village sites of both the Indians and Eskimos. At the modern villages he would measure the adults and give free medical treatment to those who were ailing and at the old and abandoned sites he would collect human skeletons and artifacts. He soon became known to the natives along the rivers as the "skull doctor" and in the main was well received by them. Mosquitoes and other biting insects, along with barking dogs, made it hard to get enough sleep but the author showed remarkable endurance for a man of his age.

*Alaska Diary* does not make smooth reading and if one is looking for information pertaining to the "customs, traditions and characteristics" of the natives of the region he will be disappointed. Physical anthropologists and archaeologists probably will question the value of some of the material for scientific purposes but it must be kept in mind that this was a pioneering work. Its greatest value may well prove to be the information it contains concerning the locations of archaeological sites. Many sites were untouched by Hrdlicka due to lack of time, lack of assistance, and the frozen condition of the ground. The future archaeologist working in the area will have much of the reconnaissance work already done for him and can excavate some of the more important sites without further search.

The illustrations showing Indian and Eskimo types and scenes along the rivers add considerably to the book's interest even though they are not so good from the technical standpoint. Those interested in the scientific aspects of the expeditions may consult the various reports which are mentioned at the end of the book. *Alaska Diary* will be of interest to anyone planning to travel in Alaska or to the reader who likes to travel vicariously.—*Richard G. Morgan.*

**Alaska Diary**, by Ales Hrdlicka, The Jacques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. 1943. xv—414 pp., 232 Illus., \$5.00.