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Book Notices

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Mathematical Tables and Formulae. F. J. Camm, Compiler. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 1958. 144 pages. $2.75. This sixth edition of Camm’s pocket-size tables has permitted him “to revise the text and to correct minor printers’ errors.” In addition to the tables, both an index and a table of contents are included.

D. McConnell

In view of the widespread interest in recent developments in Africa, the following books are considered timely for presentation to the members of The Ohio Academy of Science.


The authoress is a sociologist and teacher at the Sorbonne University. She presents with great clarity the problems confronting the ¾ of the human race who “have,” and the others who “have not.” It describes the pauperization by largesse of those members of the latter group who have existed by and perpetuated archaic cultures, and it categorizes such pauperization as the crime of the century.


The author is Professor of History at Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio. By searching documents, extensively and intensively, he has found how American foreign policy has contributed to the creation and maintenance of this small nation, Liberia, in Africa, and his account is fascinating. The story carries through World War II, and shows how Liberia, with Firestone aid, has developed a huge rubber industry. Scholarliness is attested by a bibliography which includes the documentary sources, books, periodicals and newspapers, then a chapter by chapter list of references.

The Open Door on the Old Barbary Coast. Raymond W. Bixler. Pageant Press. 1959. 204 pp. $3.50.

This book tells about the establishment and pursuit of the policy of the open door on the south shores of the Mediterranean. The references consulted (all carefully cited and listed) were found mainly in the National Archives and in the Cleveland Public Library. The peoples of the Old Barbary States early attained independence from the Ottoman Empire, but were largely Moslem, and they were bound together by a tradition of centuries of strife with Christian Europe. The United States established the open door policy, a policy which came to be challenged by the invasion and exploitation of North Africa by certain strong European states. The door was re-opened after World War II, and now the whole area is in turmoil, while new African states are being formed throughout much of the rest of that continent.


The editors introduce this collection of readings in Anthropology with a long description of the geography of Africa, of the physical types of peoples living there, of their languages, histories, social and political organizations, and of their art and folklore. These topics are amplified by a wisely selected series of reprints of original studies which are grouped under the headings of People and environment, Social groupings, Authority and government, Values, Religion and Aesthetics, Culture contact and change.

This book aims to provide some background of facts about African cultures so there might be better understanding of changes now taking place. It records some facts which might become lost in the near future.

Thomas H. Langlois