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**Finding Fossil Man.** *Robin Place.* Philosophical Library, New York, 1957. 63 photographs, 41 sketches, 126 pp. \$7.50.

This attractive little book is written for the advanced high school student (with some knowledge of biology) interested in learning of the ascent of man and of his fossil ancestors. The thesis of evolution is carefully developed from the beginning clues through the contributions of amphibians, ancient reptiles and mammals, to early primates and fossil man. The reconstruction of "near-men," and the first men is well done; the revelation of the extinction of the Neandertal Man line and subsequent but parallel flowering of *Homo sapiens* is quite up-to-date.

Unfortunately, the out-dated Early, Middle, and Late subdivisions of the Pleistocene Epoch are retained, there being not a word even about the now generally accepted four subdivisions of the Würm (Late Pleistocene) in Europe. The title is misleading, for less than 5 percent of the 107 text pages are devoted to the "finding" of fossil men.

The last chapter, quite out of line with the previous scientific account, valiantly argues that the legends and myths of the Bible quite naturally were all that shepherds and lonely village folk could pass on in explanation to their children of their own origin, whereas today we inherit the great wealth of information derived from the labors of our scientists, but especially from those who dig up the answers, the archeologists.

SIDNEY E. WHITE

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**Our Nuclear Adventure: Its Possibilities and Perils.** *D. G. Arnott.* Philosophical Library, Inc. New York, New York. 1958. xi+170 pp. \$6.00.

Since the development of the nuclear reactor and the subsequent production of radioisotopes, vast amounts of research have been performed and volumes of scientific and technical information published. We seldom find anything in the way of a stimulating informative essay which deals with the benefits and detriments of nuclear energy to man. One of the very fine exceptions to this is the book entitled "Our Nuclear Adventure" by D. G. Arnott.

The author considers in detail the philosophical, social, and biological implications of nuclear phenomena. He first introduces the reader to the basic facts of radioactivity, nuclear fission, and fusion. The effects of radiation upon living things is taken up in detail. The various kinds of nuclear weapons are described and the relative effects of their use in a global war is discussed. All of these topics are presented in an informative and stimulating manner. The pros and cons of the respective situations are presented and the reader is left to draw his own conclusions and inferences concerning the "possibilities and perils" of nuclear phenomena. Some of the conclusions are crystal clear while others require thoughtful, soul-searching consideration. The author points out to the scientist and to society that each has an obligation to the other. The scientist is particularly reminded of his social responsibility and that no circumstance warrants his isolation from or lessens his obligation to meet this responsibility.

The inquisitive and thinking layman and scientist will surely want to read this fine work.

WILLARD C. MYSER