

Egypt any intermixture from the south could hardly have helped the cultural and genetic inheritance of the Egyptians—and coupled with genetic loss of some of the abler elements it would largely account for the collapse of this gifted people.

Besides Egypt, however, *The Challenge of Color* deals with far wider subjects and implications, including racial mixture in Latin America and the problems facing the United States today, and the relationship of these matters to Russia. Towards the end of the book the author discusses the possibility of resettling Negroes from the United States in Africa.

Drew's emphasis upon the "separate but equal" doctrine—as against the concept of absolute equality based upon the destruction of separation—strikes a note of realism.

## DAILY LIFE IN GREECE AT THE TIME OF PERICLES

By Robert Flacelière. Translated from the French by Peter Green. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1965. Pp. 310, 39 plates, 2 maps. Price 42s.

This is an account of Athens in the fifth century according to the reconstruction of a distinguished French scholar, and it is a most penetrating one. Anyone wishing to understand the way the Athenian lived, and what were his standards in the trades and professions, will find this book a necessity. One point the author makes in his Preface is (what we would today call) the racialism of the Greeks, who thought of themselves as a stock different from the rest of Barbarism.

## ORIGINS OF MAN

By John Buettner-Janusch. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1966. Pp. 674. Price \$9.45.

This book is an introduction to physical anthropology, containing much up to date and valuable information. Written from the populationist point of view, the book covers a wide range of topics including human evolution, human genetics, primatology and serology.

The author advocates the "lumper's" taxonomy for the fossil and living primates. He would place all the fossils known as australopithecines in a single species, *Homo africanus*. Other authorities have divided the australopithecines into two species, *africanus* and *robustus*, the latter species being more massive and rugged. To support his view the author points out that variation equivalent to that found in the australopithecines can be found in living chimpanzees, all members of a single species. He places the australopithecines in the genus *Homo*, rather than in a separate genus, *Australopithecus*, since he considers it unlikely that two genera of hominids could have coexisted. He would place the pithecanthropines, Neanderthals, and other Middle and Upper Pleistocene fossils in a single species, *Homo sapiens*. The author is more than justified in criticizing the practice of anthropologists of creating separate species, and at times genera, for a single fossil. However, the variation within the group the author terms *Homo sapiens* appears to be great enough to warrant two species, *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens*.

The book contains a detailed discussion of biochemical variation in man and the other primates. All of the blood group systems, the variant hemo-

globins and haptoglobins are dealt with. The chapter on natural selection and blood groups is of particular interest. The chapters on evolution and genetic equilibrium and on the chemical and structural basis of heredity are also excellent. The subjects are explained clearly and in more depth than they are in most books on physical anthropology.

The author states that races definitely exist. However, he considers the study of gene frequencies to be far more important than racial studies based on morphological criteria. It is the reviewer's opinion that much can be gained from both the genetic and the morphological approaches, and that they complement, rather than contradict, each other. However, no disagreement over minor points can detract from this informative and well written book.

FRANK MIELE.

### MALTA AND GOZO

By Robin Bryans. Faber and Faber, London, 1966. Pp. 256, 28 plates. Price 42s.

This is a book for popular reading in which Robin Bryans brings out the fact that the Maltese archipelago has more interest for its size than probably any other similar region. He mentions the prehistoric Neolithic settlers, and goes on to deal with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans and, ultimately, the Knights of Malta, and the French and British—as well as matters of more tourist interest.

It makes good reading, and is the sort of general introduction needed for the understanding of deeper archaeological and ethnological study.

It is interesting to remember that the Maltese speak the Phœnician language, related to Hebrew and Arabic; a language which gave us the alphabet.

### EVERYDAY LIFE IN BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA

By H. W. F. Saggs. B. T. Batsford, London; G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1965. Pp. 207, 115 illustrations. Price 21s.

This is an excellent account of life in this early part of the White world. The author gives a brief but useful account of the races of Babylonia and Assyria. He places the coming of the Sumerians at over 5000 years ago. They came from the east or north-east and developed their civilisation on the basis of an indigenous people living in villages, some of whom may have been Semites.

The Sumerian social structure consisted of the nobles, the freemen, the dependent freemen, and the slaves derived from prisoners of war.

Dr Saggs provides the ethno-historical background of Mesopotamia and Babylonia, and gives an account of the birth of writing about 3000 B.C. in Sumer. He mentions the possibility that these pictographic characters may have been preceded by early forms—which would push back the beginning of writing to an earlier date. His account shows how pictographs were also used for syllograms, in the development of a syllabary, and very soon the pictographs themselves developed into ideograms. By about 2000 B.C. syllabic cuneiform was coming into general use.

As early as this time of the beginning of writing the Sumerians had already devised symbols for their numerals. They had a decimal and also