

BOOK REVIEWS

ANUTAN CONCEPTS OF DISEASE: A POLYNESIAN STUDY. By Richard Feinberg. Publication No. 3. Brigham Young University, Institute for Polynesian Studies, Laie, Hawaii. 51 pages with notes and bibliography.—Like all island societies, the Anutans of Polynesia are each a part of inter-related social schemes which give identity and purpose to each individual. Dr. Feinberg explains the relationships among the Anutans of pathologies with concepts of social obligations. Succinctly stated, their social system determines their pathologies, and has always done so; modern medicine notwithstanding.

Basically, Dr. Feinberg tells us that the people of Anuta think that disease comes as a form of punishment for something. Hence, western medicine and traditional healing methods need not be mutually exclusive. This is a rather simple, even convenient notion, and may not be all that different to what many more educated westerners feel today.

Feinberg explains the social complexities of Anutan society exceptionally well, without excessive jargon, and in ways that laymen can readily comprehend. His book was enjoyable.

After reading this little volume one will get the picture that (1) modern medical services on Anuta are considerably underdeveloped and generally unavailable; (2) the people do well without them because they can rationalize poor diagnosis and treatment through invocations of pre-Christian beliefs which, in part, survive; and (3) when someone is very sick efforts are made to get them off the island for help.

Some of the things the author didn't touch upon adequately or at all, were to what extent traditional Anutan healers refer cases to hospitals? And does the reverse ever occur; particularly with psychosomatic maladies? Perhaps these and related questions are to be taken up in subsequent inquiries.

At the conclusion of his useful discourse Dr. Feinberg asks the question: "Why do [Anutans] continue clinging to [their traditional healing] when a more effective one—that of western medicine—is present and available?" (p. 43). In answering he suggests that it is because they lack knowledge, exposure, and understanding. While this is undoubtedly true, particularly as regards knowledge

and understanding (which can be said for most Americans as well), it is more likely that "exposure" is the key. If western medicine really was "present and available" for the Anutans they would soon use it almost exclusively.

Although Feinberg is not "must reading" for the casual Pacific Islands visitor, he has nonetheless written a useful book, and the social schemes which are outlined and explained can be conceptually transferred to other island situations. Hence, this is a very good book for the expatriate employee, and even the tourist, to read because it allows for clearer insights into a society which, on its face, would seem quite curious to the outsider.

DIRK ANTHONY BALLENDORF, *Micronesian Area Research Center, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96913.*

FLORA MALESIANA. Edited by C.G.G.J. van Steenis. Sijthoff & Noordhoff, Alphen aan Rijn, Netherlands. 277 p. Dfl. 222.50.—We are glad to acknowledge the appearance of the third part and completion of volume 8 of Series I (Spermatophyta) of FLORA MALESIANA. This fascicle of (19)+277 pages contains a very interesting dedicatory essay in honor of the famous 19th century Dutch botanist F. A. W. Miquel and treatments of 11 families of flowering plants. These include such large and difficult families as Labiatae and Anacardiaceae.

The publication of each new issue of FLORA MALESIANA is a major event in the botany of the western Pacific. Of course the obvious benefit is to those concerned with the botany of "Malesia," a term designating the old Dutch, British and Portugese East Indies, the Philippines, Malaya, New Guinea and the islands immediately to the north and east of New Guinea. Readers of MICRONESICA may not be aware that, for those families so far covered in the more than eight published volumes, this great flora is the best available source of information on Micronesian (and Melanesian) plants, as well as on those of Malesia. The relationships of Micronesian plants are almost entirely with the area covered by FLORA MALESIANA. Of course the Micronesian endemic species are not treated by this flora, but usually

their relatives may be found in its pages.

Over 30 years effort have gone so far into its preparation, by a fairly large and able staff based at the Rijksherbarium in Leiden, Netherlands. Directing this effort, and the originator and promoter of the project, is one of the most able and energetic botanists of our time, Prof. C.G.G.J. van Steenis, until his recent retirement director of the Rijksherbarium. In addition to the Flora Malesiana staff, and that of the Rijksherbarium, treatments of various families of plants are being prepared for the flora by specialists enlisted from other countries and institutions.

The treatments are generally conservative. The format is very informative. The bibliographic foundation, especially the work of Mrs. M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman, is superb.

The publication is expensive, but no library with any concern with the Indo-Pacific tropics, or for that matter, with the tropics generally, can well afford to be without it. Not only are native genera and species treated in full with keys, correct names, synonymy, descriptions, statements of geography and ecology, but the widespread pantropical and other naturalized exotic species are included, in so far as they occur in the region. Cultivated species are mentioned.

All in all, it is a very satisfactory flora and we hope it will continue publication until all the families are covered. Then it will be time to start over to bring in the new knowledge and discoveries it has generated.

The FLORA MALESIANA is published for the Foundation "Flora Malesiana", the Rijksherbarium, and the Botanical Gardens of Indonesia, by Sijthoff & Noordhoff International Publishers. It may be ordered from the latter, P.O. Box 4, Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands.

F. R. FOSBERG *Botanist Emeritus Smithsonian Institution Washington, D.C. 20560.*

SEEDLINGS OF DICOTYLEDONS; structure, development, types, descriptions of 150 woody Malesian taxa. By E. F. de Vogel. Centre for Agricultural Publishing and Documentation, Wageningen. 465 p. (available from Unipub, 345 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y.) \$125.00—Most field botanists, ecologists, and foresters have often wished for a book that will enable them to identify seedlings in the field, or in the herbarium for that matter. Those who work in the tropics have an even greater need

for such a book or key. The volume under review is not such a book, though it gives a pretty good idea why such a book is not available, nor likely to be in the near future.

One with some experience with systematic botany has every reason to expect that seedling types will bear some relation to the families to which the seedlings belong. It may come as a shock to find that this is apparently not the case. The present volume examines, exhaustively, all the previously proposed systems of arrangement or classification of seedlings and finds neither any relation to taxonomic arrangement nor any other logical and consistent scheme, at least that can be applied to seedlings of tropical plants. The author, on the basis of the sample of seedlings of Malesian woody plants that he has studied, then constructs a scheme of his own, and, in over 100 pages of very difficult reading, attempts to demonstrate its rationale. From the outset he shows that there is no relation between his 16 types with 5 additional subtypes and any so-far proposed taxonomic system.

Through most of the discussion it was difficult for this reviewer to detect any convincing basis, whatever, for the proposed scheme. Only in the chapter on Classification of the Seedling Types, pages 93–117, where the author shows some possibility that the types can be derived from each other by likely morphological modifications, does the scheme begin to make any sense. The one thing that does come through clearly is that there is no possibility of anything like a simple arrangement of seedlings, especially any based on taxonomic relationships of the adult plants.

The book contains an enormous amount of information. To get at it requires more effort than most readers are likely to put into this task. The illustrations are good, but even the diagrams are not easy to follow or understand. The format of the book, with very long lines, makes use of the book even exhausting.

The descriptions and illustrations of the 150 Malesian taxa are clear and adequate. However, the ratio between these 150 species and the enormous woody flora of Malesia makes it clear that the book will provide little help in identification. This, plus the prohibitive price, \$125.00 U.S., makes it unlikely that any except dedicated seedling morphologists and the largest botanical libraries will be able to own the book. The fact that the author acknowledges financial support for a part of the costs of publication makes one wonder at the