

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.

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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 Portuguese 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