

# Book Reviews

## SCOTLAND IN EUROPE: A STUDY IN RACE RELATIONS

By Olive M. Squier, in three volumes. Graphic Publications, Inverness, 1976. Pp. 246. six plates, paper covers with charts of dynasties. Price £5.75.

This book deals with Scots history from the earliest times and, in doing so, discusses the Celtic Church and its dependence from that of England and Rome, and goes on to trace Scots history down to the present time.

It is, on the whole, an excellent work, putting the Scottish point of view, and not as an appendage of English history. It brings out the relations with France and the wide intermarriages with the continental monarchies, as well as the large armies (for those days) which the Scots fielded on the Continent, such as in support of Joan of Arc.

I doubt, however, if the writer is correct in saying that the Estates of Parliament were representative of all classes. They were composed of the Church, the peers, barons and freeholders, and the royal burghs themselves, usually with councils formed from the nobles. However she is right, in so far as the Estates were nearer to the people than the English Parliament, and so it enacted many laws which were beneficial to them—such as on education, and on assistance for the poor in litigation. At the other end of the social stratum what Parliament, other than the Scots Estates, made it obligatory before the Reformation to send the eldest sons of the barons to school and to go on from there for three years at the university?

All through the period of the Wars of the Roses in England, when Parliament was scarcely consulted, the Scottish Estates were in constant session. Among other tasks it codified Scots law, and ensured that the poor received justice (p. 136). Trade was improved and the coinage matters despatched. In the reign of James IV (as in that of James I) Scotland was a power in Europe.

These three volumes have to be read to be appreciated. They throw new light on the Scots and their affairs, and give an entirely new perspective of history, without which it is impossible to understand the past, or indeed the present.

R. GAYRE OF GAYRE

## RACE DIFFERENCES IN INTELLIGENCE

By John C. Loehlin, Gardner Lindzey and J. N. Spuhler. W. H. Freeman. San Francisco, 1975. Pp. 380. Price \$9.00 (paperback).

This impressive volume, prepared under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on Biological Bases of Social Behavior, is a comprehensive presentation of the available evidence bearing on the extent and causes of ethnic differences in intelligence as measured by mental tests. It contains a great deal of additional and cognate material, such as a critical summary of the mathematical formulations of the concept of heritability and the efforts to approximate this coefficient through comparison of I.Q. similarities of pairs of one-egg and pairs of two-egg twins; presentation of data on ethnic differences in the structure of intelligence, and an unusually thorough treatment of the relationship between specific nutritional deficiencies, occurring at different periods in fetal and infantile growth, and brain-size and I.Q. In dealing with the latter problem, for example, the authors point out that the experience of the Dutch *hongerwinter* in 1944-45, during which a Nazi embargo on land transport to western Netherlands caused widespread maternal starvation,

does not necessarily disprove the hypothesis that severe fetal malnutrition may stultify brain growth.

The prior excellent nutritional state of Dutch women may have enabled their infants to survive intact an experience of nutritional deprivation which could cause permanent and severe brain damage among chronically malnourished and undernourished poor populations.

The work under review approaches controversial issues with such great scientific caution as to make its conclusions ambivalent and tentative on almost all matters. It is valuable for the vast amount of research material which the authors have studied, critically analyzed and recapitulated with admirable accuracy and brevity. For example, Loehlin *et al* point out that, while the most authoritative studies of comparative Negro and Caucasoid intelligence in the United States report an I.Q. difference of about 15 points in favor of the whites, these findings, which are almost always based on testing of schoolchildren, are not recapitulated in the most comprehensive testings of adult intelligence ever attempted in the United States. The latter are, of course, the mental testings of military recruits for the U.S. armed forces. These showed for the Second World War (Davenport, 1946) that the Black recruits averaged 23 I.Q. points (1.52 standard deviations) below the Whites. Twenty years later, after the most massive governmental and private effort to improve the educational, cultural, social, political and economic conditions of Negroes ever attempted by any nation at any time in history, Vietnam Negro recruits tested at exactly the same level—23 I.Q. points below the Whites (Karpinos, 1966). This finding suggests the intriguing possibility that we may have all been somewhat naive in assuming that one can realistically say that the I.Q. of one ethnic group is X points above or below the norm of its society. For this implies that different ethnic stocks have similar rates of mental development. It seems quite possible, if not probable, that genetic differences may prescribe variations in rate of growth between races—just as some people are incapable, regardless of stimulus, of actually understanding differential calculus or grandmaster chess combinations—and that hence a strictly accurate view of things might define the I.Q. relationship between two races as a function which varies with age.

The book under review will be of little value to readers who approach the subject of race differences in intelligence with the hope that science will validate their preconceptions, whether the latter be environmentalist or hereditarian. It is of great value to serious students of this complex problem who are interested in weighing the evidence.

NATHANIEL WEYL

## THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

By E. Richard Sorenson. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1976. Pp. 280, 150 figures, 16 maps, eight tables. Price \$18.50.

This is an excellent work, using the stills from film photography to illustrate these people of New Guinea. It lacks, as do nearly all such modern works, any clear statement of the races to which the native peoples belong, and although it has a section on linguistics, does not clearly define their position. It has, of course, a section on the genetics (based on blood groups). While these help us up to a point, they are not very satisfactory in sorting out the ethnological groundwork, especially where a limited number of genetic factors are concerned which come from more than one racial element. In those cases the blood groups can give almost any kind of result. For this reason we believe that a mere treatment on blood groups is not enough.

These are defects in an otherwise well produced work. As far as we can see the people have Australoid as well as Negroid or Melanesian blood.