

careful of taboos, and did not interfere with the women. This circumspect behavior was expected of them by their sponsors, though apparently the islanders were quite ready to allow romances. The Americans, through most of their stay, thought that the native beauties had merely a friendly interest in them but discovered shortly before leaving that some of the girls had desired them as sweethearts, and that one young lovely had sailed away to a neighboring island to relieve her disappointment when she had been dissuaded from making approaches.

None of the scientists was on the atoll longer than five months. Their purpose was to observe the ecology of the inhabitants—the interrelations of man, his culture and his environment. For the co-authors of this volume perhaps a more powerful, though less admissible, objective was to get away from it all, to experience whether life on such an island could approach the blissful existence popularly associated with the South Seas. In this day and age of rapid communications, and following an extensive period when European and Asiatic “civilization” has been visited upon the Pacific by traders, mariners, missionaries, buccaneers and blackbirders—often with disastrous results—are there any unspoiled frontiers left? Frederick O’Brien, who searched for them in the 1920’s in the Society and Marquesas Islands, wished that he could have been there 50 years earlier, for great had been the ravages by the outside world.

Happily for this expedition, Ifaluk fulfilled their expectations. A journal entry, as their ship arrived at dawn on June 22, read: “There was Ifaluk—reef, lagoon, islets and all, everything a remote South Sea island should have—impossibly attractive. . . . It was love at first sight. It was love for an idea, perhaps for an ideal. That’s dangerous because things so rarely live up to an ideal. The miracle of Ifaluk was that it never let us down. Or maybe I should say that we were always able to fit the reality to the illusion—which remains something of a miracle, either of Ifaluk or of our minds”.

The natives were intelligent, co-operative and congenial, 260 happy souls on half a square mile of land. Seniors in their 60s were vigorous and obviously enjoying life; the children were secure, showed no sibling rivalry, and were delightful. Good health and good looks they had; the heaviest man

weighed 182 pounds and was the only male who came close to having a paunch. Native crafts persisted; the women made their lavas and the men their ropes, from local materials; ocean-going canoes still traverse great spaces guided by astral navigation. The lagoon was an azure fairyland.

Few flaws marred this wondrous jewel. Flies were ubiquitous by day and mosquitoes by night, Pacific rats were present but under control on the inhabited islands, and “tropical sores” resulted from infections in cuts made by coral or by the serrated margins of the pandanus leaves.

Tolerance, and a conviction (continually reinforced by the facts) that the Ifalukians have fashioned an enviable, co-operative society in an economy of abundance, characterize the story-tellers. Excellently written, the narrative is embellished by humor and by excursions into the seemingly endless arguments started by the scientists but not often resolved. Even the passages of technical descriptions should interest anyone with a modest bump of curiosity.

On a chilly Canadian evening, it is a delightful contrast to muse over this timeless land where winter never comes.

A.W.N.

STATISTICS ESSENTIAL FOR POLICE EFFICIENCY, by John I. Griffin, Ph.D.

The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada and Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. Pp. 229. \$8.25.

The author has done a magnificent job in providing this book for police forces. Statistics have long been a management accessory in the business world, to provide the necessary information from which executives and administrators may make decisions as to the needs for their business and operations.

Unfortunately, police statistics have not as yet been fully understood and as a consequence, their present composition does not generally make full contribution to the efficient work of the police in any community.

The author gives information for modern statistical methods for both the small as well as the large city police departments, without expensive personnel or equipment.

The author has done a good job and is obviously well qualified for his treatise.

D.N.C.