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Rezensionen — Analyses — Reviews.

Phillips, John: Agriculture and Ecology in Africa. A Study of Actual and Potential Development South of the Sahara. 424 pp. map. — London: Faber & Faber 1959. Sh. 63/—.

Der Autor, Professor der Agrikultur am University College of Ghana, ist ein wahrer Freund des modernen, werdenden Afrika. Diese geistige Haltung durchzieht die ganze Studie. In leidenschaftsloser Weise werden die bisher von Afrikanern und Überseern begangenen Fehler und Unterlassungssünden aufgezählt, um von hier aus zum neuen Ganzen zu kommen.

Das Hauptverdienst dieser Studie ist in der Vereinheitlichung der vielfältigen und verschiedenartigen Begriffe und Fachausdrücke zu sehen. Die dem Werke beigegebene Karte hält diese Ergebnisse synoptisch fest und ermöglicht dem Leser, Spezialwerke aus allen behandelten Ländern einzureihen und zu vergleichen.

H. EGGENBERGER, Basel.

Field, M. J.: Search for Security. An ethno-psychiatric study of Rural Ghana. 478 pp. — London: Faber & Faber, 1960, Sh. 42/—.

Die Autorin, die vor dem 2. Weltkrieg als Ethnologin in Ghana geforscht hatte, kehrte 1955 als Ärztin mit psychiatrischer Ausbildung dahin zurück. Sie legt nach Jahren genauer Beobachtungsarbeit, hauptsächlich beim Volk der Ashanti, ein Werk vor, das — für den Referenten ohne Zweifel — in Zukunft als der wichtigste Grundstein jeder praktischen und wissenschaftlichen psychiatrischen Arbeit in Afrika gelten wird.

Auf rund 100 Seiten werden die sozialen, ökonomischen, familiären, ideologischen und institutionellen Gegebenheiten klar geschildert, von denen sich die Pathographie abhebt. Zustände von Besessenheit, die als seelischer Ausnahmezustand häufig vorkommen, werden von den Priestern an den, in den letzten Jahrzehnten zahlreich neu aufgerichteten Altären, in dominierter und modifizierter Form zum Zweck der Hellseherei und therapeutischen Suggestion reproduziert. Die Altäre, Sitz dieser Priester und oft kommerzielle Basis einer ganzen