

H. D. Sankalia — *Indian Archaeology today.*

Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1962, pp - I-144, 12 plates and 11 figures. Price Rs. 12.50.

The book incorporates a series of three lectures delivered by Prof. Sankalia under the auspices of the Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture. The three lectures concern with "Changing aims and methods of Indian archaeology", "Indian archaeology and its contribution to prehistory and protohistory", and "Indian archaeology and its contribution to protohistory and early history."

The three lectures admirably sum up the history of the archaeological work in this sub-continent and also give an account of the archaeological work relating to prehistory, protohistory and ancient history. In the last two fields attempt has been made to bring in anthropological and literary evidences in order to square them with the archaeological data and to see whether the two fit in to give a coherent account of the people of this sub-continent. The result is not very satisfactory: e.g. on pp. 103-4, the Dravidian question is tackled in relation to the megalithic culture but the two are not found fit. On p. 96, the neolithic question is discussed in relation to the "aboriginal tribes". The relationship is rightly doubted. Controversial points are touched on pp. 28-29, where chronological limits of prehistory and protohistory are given. The discussion, of course, is tentative. But the most useful point raised is the necessity of understanding the various cultures of this sub-continent regionwise on a thorough investigation of the local materials. In this task both the universities and the Government must combine (P. 125) and lead to a new age of archaeological research in this sub-continent—a change from mere official routine to the university level of research and exploration, a theme so well understood in the advanced countries of the world.

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