

the Upper Laetoli Beds. Many, but not all of the taxa represented by fossil remains are also represented by footprints. Given the complexity of the assemblage, a summary of the relationships between footprints and fossils and of the information they produce relevant to ecological reconstruction would be helpful.

In Section 13, M.D. Leakey provides a brief history of the discovery and excavation of the hominid footprints, brief descriptions of their state of preservation, and maps and photographs of the trails. Detailed descriptions and analyses are provided by Robbins and Tuttle. Although these two researchers used different techniques and had different accesses to the prints, they arrive at very similar conclusions, i.e., that the foot morphology, stride, and gait of the individuals that made the prints were essentially modern. Tuttle further concludes that based on morphological considerations, the hominid footprints from Laetoli could be attributed to *Homo* even *H. sapiens*, although he does not insist on this attribution. Given the lack of consensus about the locomotor behavior of Middle to

Late Pliocene hominids and the controversy about the state of preservation of some of the footprints, one can imagine that these conclusions will meet with satisfaction in some and incredulity in others. I, for one, am bothered by the heavy reliance in both reports on modern anatomical proportions for the basis of analysis, even though the fossil record suggests that hominid proportions in the Pliocene were significantly different from our own.

Harris's summary in Section 14 is a useful conclusion to a handsomely produced and generally well balanced volume. It will stand as the major work on the area for years to come. Those who are specifically or particularly interested in the hominid remains from Laetoli, however, must look elsewhere, for these remains are barely mentioned and just adequately figured. This lacuna constitutes the major weakness of the monograph.

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HOST FACTORS IN DISEASE. AGE, SEX, RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUP AND BODY BUILD. By Anthony P. Polednak. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1987. xiii + 208 pp., tables, figures, index. \$29.75 (cloth).

The author states that this book was written for three audiences; students and teachers of biomedical anthropology, epidemiologists and public health workers, and clinicians. The author also states that the book is structured to meet the needs of the first two groups, especially if used as a text in advanced undergraduate and graduate classes. The clinical usefulness of the book is purposefully limited; the author tries to sensitize clinicians to the biological and social variability that patients bring with them when they seek medical treatment.

Six chapters comprise the text. The first chapter is a general introduction that reviews the concept of the "host" in disease. There is a brief historical overview that leads to the main topics of the book. These are the effects of age, sex, race/ethnicity, and body build on the etiology, epidemiology, prognosis, and, occasionally, treatment of various

infectious and chronic diseases. Each of the variables (age, sex, etc.) receives treatment in its own chapter. Throughout the text, reference is made to the value of an anthropological perspective on these host factors in disease. The author defines that perspective as populational and evolutionary; however, there is no clear treatment of the population approach to human biology and only brief mention of human variation from an evolutionary perspective (a few sentences mentioning paleolithic diets and the age at death of Neanderthals are sprinkled into the text, but no citation for "evolution" or "population" is made in the index).

Overall, the discussion of host factors is presented as an annotated review of the literature, mostly from the last decade of research. Landmark studies from past centuries are cited as needed to give the reader necessary background. This approach provides a very useful update of many of the important recent trends of investigation and the major studies in epidemiology and human biology. At times, however, the reader may wish that the author provided more critical evaluation of the research reviewed and

more explanation of the biological and socio-cultural processes examined by the research.

There are numerous places where the author does give the reader much valuable insight. The chapter on age and disease presents very well a discussion of biological changes that occur with age vs. changes that occur as a result of age. In this regard the treatment of osteoporosis and elevation in blood pressure, and their concomitants in diet, exercise, and other life-style factors, is stimulating. In the chapters on race/ethnicity and body build, the author is at his best. There is an excellent brief introduction on the modern concept of race and ethnic group. The difficulty of teasing apart the independent contributions of unique genes (race) from behaviors and beliefs (ethnicity) is made clear. Further compounding this problem is the overlap of socioeconomic status (SES) with race/ethnicity. The author points out that the poor health status of blacks in the Republic of South Africa and the United States of America is not due to racial/ethnic factors per se; rather, it is most strongly associated with the lower average SES of blacks in those countries. Indeed, the author states that these two countries are the only "developed" nations that do not provide comprehensive health care as a privilege of citizenship to their people. The body build chapter provides an adequate review of the methods of body composition analysis, concluding that despite advances in technology (e.g., ultrasound and electrical impedance devices), the method of choice for most purposes is still the measurement of skinfolds and circumferences. Anthropologists have thought more and more deeply than other human

biologists about issues relating to race and body composition. So, it is not surprising that this book, written by a health professional with strong anthropological training, should excel when discussing these topics.

The final chapter is a synthesis of the book. The author cites the idea that health and disease are the outcomes of a web of causation involving pathogens and their hosts. A strong environmental focus is taken on the factors involved in the web of causation. To be sure, genetic susceptibility to disease exists in human populations, but such susceptibility requires a life-style stimulus to be expressed. One example used several times in the book is the "New World syndrome," a suite of metabolic diseases, such as diabetes and gall bladder disease, found at very high incidence in Native Americans and Mexicans who have recently adopted Western life-style habits in diet and sedentary work. With this example, and others, the author concludes that racial/ethnic determinants of disease are "due largely to factors subject to intervention."

The book is a very useful compilation of recent research in biomedical anthropology. The contents provide a database to be used by students and professionals needing an entrée into the field. Instructors with experience in biomedical research should be able to expand on any of the topics in the book and develop high-quality lecture and practicum material.

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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES DARWIN.

VOLUME 3: 1844–1846. Edited by Frederick Burkhardt and Sydney Smith. 1987. New York: Cambridge University Press. xxxii + 523 pp., figures, appendix, bibliography, biographical register, and index. \$37.50 (cloth).

In 1985 Burkhardt and Smith began publishing a complete edition of Charles Darwin's correspondence. The objective was to provide transcripts of all the available Darwin letters. As this third volume illustrates,

however, it is doing much more. Now we are able to read not only the full authoritative texts, edited with modern textual editorial principles, but also letters that Darwin received from his family and scientific correspondents, most of which have not been published before. The full scholarship of Drs. Burkhardt and Smith is employed in this truly monumental publishing venture; so are the talents of an entire Darwin workshop assembled in the manuscript room of Cambridge University and beyond, which brings a broad range of impressive scholarly exper-