

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

xiii

### I. THE SCIENCE OF CUSTOM

1

Custom and behaviour—The child's inheritance—Our false perspective—Confusion of local custom with "Human Nature"—Our blindness to other cultures—Race-prejudice—Man moulded by custom, not instinct—"Racial purity" a delusion—Reason for studying primitive peoples.

### II. THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES

19

The cup of life—The necessity for selection—Adolescence and puberty as treated in different societies—Peoples who never heard of war—Marriage customs—Interweaving of cultural traits—Guardian spirits and visions—Marriage and the Church—These associations social, not biologically inevitable.

### III. THE INTEGRATION OF CULTURE

41

All standards of behaviour relative—patterning of culture—Weakness of most anthropological work—The view of the whole—Spengler's "Decline of the West"—Faustian and Apollonian man—Western civilization too intricate for study—A *détour* via primitive tribes.

### IV. THE PUEBLOS OF NEW MEXICO

52

An unspoiled community—Zuñi ceremonial—Priests and masked gods—Medicine societies—A strongly socialized culture—"The middle road"—Carrying farther the Greek ideal—Contrasting customs of the Plains Indians—Dionysian frenzies and visions—Drugs and alcohol—The Zuñi's distrust of excess—Scorn for power and violence—Marriage, death, and mourning—Fertility ceremonies—Sex symbolism—"Man's oneness with the universe"—The typical Apollonian civilization.

### V. DOBU

120

Where ill-will and treachery are virtues—Traditional hostility—Trapping the bridegroom—The humiliating position of the husband—Fierce exclusiveness of ownership—Reliance on magic—Ritual of the garden—Disease-charms and sorcery—Passion for commerce—Wabuwabu, a sharp trade practice—Death—Mutual recriminations among survivors—Laughter excluded—Prudery—A Cut-throat struggle.

## VI. THE NORTHWEST COAST OF AMERICA

16

A sea-coast civilization—The Kwakiutl of Vancouver Island—Typical Dionysians—Cannibal Society—At the opposite pole from the Pueblos—The economic contest—A parody on our own society—Self-glorification—Shaming one's guests—Potlatch exchanges—Heights of bravado—Investing in a bride—Prerogatives through marriage, murder, and religion—Shamanism—Fear of ridicule—Death, the paramount affront—The gamut of emotions.

## VII. THE NATURE OF SOCIETY

20

Integration and assimilation—Conflict of inharmonious elements—Our own complex society—The organism v. the individual—The cultural v. the biological interpretation—Applying the lesson of primitive tribes—No fixed "types"—Significance of diffusion and cultural configuration—Social values—Need for self-appraisal.

## VIII. THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE PATTERN OF CULTURE

23

Society and individual not antagonistic but interdependent—Ready adaptation to a pattern—Reactions to frustration—Striking cases of maladjustment—Acceptance of homosexuals—Trance and catalepsy as means to authority—The place of the "misfit" in society—Possibilities of tolerance—Extreme representatives of a cultural type: Puritan divines and successful modern egoists—Social relativity a doctrine of hope, not despair.

## REFERENCES

25

## INDEX

26