

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: H. E. DRIVER, Indiana University

Glenn A. Black, Indiana University, was elected chairman for 1951.

ABSTRACTS

Superstitions of students at Indiana University, 1950. HAROLD E. DRIVER, Indiana University. With the help of the members of a class in primitive religion, a list of 33 superstitions was compiled and circulated in the form of a questionnaire to 172 students chosen at random from among acquaintances of members of the class. Positive responses ranged all the way from none to the query "Do you carry a buckeye?" to 58% to the item "Do you wish on a wish-bone?" The number of positive responses for individual students ranged from 1 to 24. There can be no doubt that superstitions are a reality among university students today.

The influence of political organization on the legal procedures of primitive groups. ANN SCHUTZEL, Indiana University.—This paper is a brief sketch of the Yurok and Cheyenne governments illustrating the contrast between an American Indian tribe which possesses no recognized political structure and a tribe where the organization has reached a fair degree of development, the type of social control identified with the structure, and the legal procedures followed to maintain the social euphoria.

Morpheme classes and sub-classes in American Indian languages. C. F. VOEGELIN, Indiana University.—The preface to this paper presents an argument that grammatical category may be classified as covert culture. After the preface three models of American Indian languages are presented, each with specific exemplification according to whether the languages exhibit four, three, or two major morpheme classes. It is found that the more interesting and immediate grammatical categories can be ascribed to sub-classes rather than to the major morpheme classes.

Chicomecoatl's corn. PAUL WEATHERWAX, Indiana University.—In various places in southern Mexico and Guatemala there are now grown by the Indians varieties of corn the ears of which are normally branched into two or three parts. These twin- or triple-branched ears resemble the conventionalized symbol of Chicomecoatl, an ancient Aztec corn goddess. This opens the way to speculation as to their origin.