clarify situational aspects of color in Caribbean community and family interrelationships. Slater's model of Caribbean family simultaneously includes all Levi-Strauss types—conjugal, subconjugal, and superconjugal. The forms and the circumstances of marriage, jeune fille (virginal women) dawn and mission ceremonies (for remission of sin), and deathbed marriages are analyzed in addition to ménages (common-law) in establishing the argument for the lack of a rule of legitimacy. Certain conclusions regarding Caribbean family organization of Peter Konstader and William Goode, among others, are questioned in this context.

The lack of updating or the firm placement of the work in the 1950s is a major criticism. Comments such as "religious schools, which are for whites only . . ." (p. 63) are hardly true in 1977. Given changing socioeconomic conditions in the Caribbean as a whole, stereotypes like "any" nonelite woman's willing availability to "any" Béké (p. 152) and the proportion of marriages to ménages for example may have shifted in Martinique over twenty years.

Rutgers University

Vera Green


This longitudinal study of the childhood microbiological and general health of forty-five Mayan children in a Guatemalan village benefits from an ambitious adaptation of laboratory and clinical methods to field study, made possible by the resources of INCAP in nearby Guatemala City. While highly technical and aimed at a medically sophisticated audience, the statistically documented multivariate influence of nutrition and infection during pregnancy and early childhood is succinctly and lucidly explained.

The research revealed a more adequate diet (deficient primarily in calories) than would be suggested by growth retardation and mortality during the critical second and third years following birth. Following early infancy (when lactation provides considerable protection against infection), young children are progressively weakened by infections until increasing immunity enables gradual replenishment of the body's reserves. The interaction of malnutrition and infection stunts adolescent growth, however, producing the small adult stature which in turn influences the size and survival chances of the next generation of fetuses and infants.

The interrelatedness of biology, environment, and culture, and the difficulties of significantly improving the health of highland Indians are clearly set forth. These sobering conclusions, however, do not discourage Mata from offering a concise set of recommendations of considerable value to those interested in child health and development under conditions of underprivilege throughout the world.

Beloit College

Robert E. Hinshaw