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†DOCTORS, DRUMS AND DANCES. By Andreas E. Laszlo. 284 pages. Hanover House, \$4.50.

Into Mysterious Angola

Andreas E. Laszlo, who was born in Hungary, is a specialist in internal medicine now practicing in Bridgeport, Conn. Sometime recently (he doesn't say just when) he made a prolonged visit to Angola, the Portuguese colony in Southwest Africa. Unable to speak a word of Portuguese or of any native language, driving a jeep truck that frequently broke down, often over deserts and bushveld where there were no roads, Dr. Laszlo enjoyed a strenuous and adventurous vacation. With a physician's curiosity and an amateur anthropologist's aplomb he succeeded in watching and making moving pictures of tribal ceremonies that local officials did not even know took place.

Sleeping in his truck, aided by a native "boy" with whom he had no common language, always frightened by snakes, Dr. Laszlo found just what he was looking for. He watched a witch doctor exorcise the evil spirit in a sick woman. He attended the puberty rites for six young girls made half conscious by some mysterious drug. He photographed a bizarre and sadistic dance in which young girls whipped adult men. He was present at the circumcision of a group of boys. And he accompanied some wild Bushmen to a pit they had dug in the hope of trapping an elephant. In the pit, dead and impaled on two spikes set there for the elephant, was one of their own women.

Such adventures make lively travel fare. Unfortunately, Dr. Laszlo has written his book in a hop, skip and jump fashion that makes it difficult to understand how he got around and what he was doing when he was not concentrating on ceremonies that would have fascinated Sir James Frazer. "Doctors, Drums and Dances" reflects Dr. Laszlo's special anthropological interests and makes no attempt at reporting Angola, one of the least-written-about regions of Africa.

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