

own tariff." Export duties have thus come to differ considerably among the three territories. The author's analysis: "The reason for this is probably less fiscal than psychological, it being colonial nature to disagree with neighbors" (page 544).

12) In the concluding chapter of volume 1, "The workers," Kimble tackles, among others, the difficult job of explaining the slow rate of African advancement to better jobs. He concludes that the problems begin with government or trade union intervention (pages 592-93). "So long as these assumptions [about which job belongs to which race] remain unwritten and uncoded [many employers will be] happy to have an African demonstrate his competence since it means that they can cut labor costs by replacing high-priced with lower-priced help. The trouble starts when these assumptions get written into the laws of governments and trade unions. Then African advancement of an evolutionary kind becomes much more difficult, for the division of the labor field between European and non-European is clearly defined, carefully guarded by the European workers' watchdogs, and not readily amenable to 'boundary' adjustment." Many Africans, I believe, would question whether the informal and desultory decisions of certain employers counted for evolution at all. But even if employer self-interest were to insure an increase in the number of this kind of boss at a fairly rapid rate, that would not solve the problem of the African who is looking for *equal* pay for equal work. Government intervention or the action of trade unions removes the element of whimsicality from the contractual relationship and offers the hope of protection to the African, not only in his competition with European workers but in his efforts to secure just treatment from all employers.

Despite the shortcomings which are illustrated in some of the foregoing excerpts, and despite the tendency to frequent oversimplification, there is, I believe, much information of value in this volume, and all of it is presented in a charming prose style. If it falters from time to time, it is not only because the subject is too large, or too diverse, or too complicated, but because the author occasionally tries to make it seem smaller, more homogeneous, and less complex than it is.

The future of the new Africa, as its precolonial past, rests largely with

the African himself. For, as Kimble reminds us "The tropical Africa of today is the work of the African's hands; almost every railroad, highway, public and private building, mine, plantation and European farm is a monument to his physical exertions" (page 575). The tropical Africa of tomorrow will even more surely be a monument to the *whole* African. For in it, we may hope, he shall be freed, as never before during the period of his colonial status, to contribute not only the strength and skill of his hands but the creativity of his intellect to the making of new nations and the growth of a continent.

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Tropical Africa. vol. 2, *Society and Polity*. George H. T. Kimble. Twentieth Century Fund, New York, 1960. 506 pp. Illus. Set, \$15.

In the early 1950's when the Twentieth Century Fund turned its attention to Africa, it was not as obvious as it is today that rapid political and economic developments would soon place Africa in the forefront of the world scene. At that time all of tropical Africa, with the exceptions of Liberia and Ethiopia, was in colonial status, and most people, even the most informed, expected it to remain so for many years to come. Planning for economic, social, and political development was the concern of the colonial powers. When the United States dealt officially with tropical Africa, its dealings were largely with the appropriate officials in the metropolises. Few African students reached this country. Most Americans thought of Africa, if at all, as a country of big game and safaris, a field for mission work, or a romantic land of darkness. They knew nothing of the new industrial developments, of the efforts to further social and economic change, of the growth of towns and urban problems, of the appearance and hopes of African trade unions, of the growing group of young African leaders who were demanding a share in the governing of their own countries and were soon to refuse to accept anything save fully independent African governments. Only a few American scientists and scholars had actually worked in Africa and knew something

of its problems at first hand, and these tended to write for their fellow specialists.

Today tropical Africa consists of a score of independent nations and a few colonial territories which will undoubtedly obtain independence in the next few years. African political leaders are frequent visitors to the United States where they expect to find support for their programs and an understanding of their problems. The United States is increasingly involved in technical assistance in the newly independent countries. The number of American scholars and scientists with a specialized interest in Africa is proliferating rapidly. Universities and colleges are teaching an increasing number of courses on Africa, and books about Africa pour from the presses.

All this makes apparent an urgent need for a convenient general handbook, incorporating the mass of specialized knowledge now available on various portions of the continent, to serve the student in the classroom, to supplement the knowledge of the specialist, and to provide a guide for the general reader. The Twentieth Century Fund is to be congratulated for the vision with which it foresaw this need and for the impressive body of expert knowledge it was able to mobilize for the project. Some 46 reports on special topics were prepared as background material from which the final report, *Tropical Africa*, was assembled by George Kimble. The Fund was wise in placing this last task in the hands of a geographer, for of all specialists it is the geographer who most clearly holds to a widened vision when he writes of the way in which man and his environment interact. As a popular handbook, the work also gains by being the final product of one writer, for it has a coherence derived from a single style and a particular point of view that a collection of essays, no matter how well assembled to complement one another, cannot have. At the same time, most readers will wish that it had been possible to publish the background papers as a supplement to the handbook. Their value to the scholar becomes apparent on almost every page of the two volumes. It is also to be wished that the Fund had found it possible to publish the annotated bibliography prepared for it by the International African Institute.

Tropical Africa will find its place on the bookshelves of the specialist who will turn to it as one convenient means of checking conditions in portions of

Africa where he has not worked and for background information in fields which impinge upon his own. It will also become, no doubt, the standard guide for the nonspecialist who only wants to know about Africa. In many ways it is a very good guide, though it is not the only one in its field. At the time it was planned the only general survey of African conditions was the old edition of Lord Hailey's *African Survey*, then almost 20 years old and sadly out of date. This was completely rewritten and reissued in 1957 and remains the most authoritative source on Africa, though its style is not one to attract the general reader. No doubt the scholar will prefer its succinct pages packed with detailed information to the more lively prose of *Tropical Africa* where the flow of analogies and metaphors obscures the facts and, on occasion, seems to crowd them out all together. Nevertheless, even the reissue of *The African Survey* is now some four years old, and for more recent information *Tropical Africa* is now the most convenient source.

It is also probable that the scholar will prefer volume 1 of *Tropical Africa*, for there the chapters deal very largely with material things which can be counted, measured, and placed on maps, where it is possible to give evaluations which rest on more or less accepted standards. The treatment therefore tends to be factual. The general reader no doubt will prefer volume 2, for it deals with economic, political, and social developments which are more likely to interest him and which he will feel to be more immediately pertinent as background to the events with which he is concerned. Recent political developments have been more fully described in other recent books, but here they find their setting amidst the background of poverty, illiteracy, inadequate medical facilities, difficulties caused by the terrain, and the scarcity of competent technologists with an understanding of tropical conditions. The reader can therefore assess not only constitutional developments and the programs of political leaders, but also the problems with which these leaders must cope if their peoples' demand for a better life is to be met.

It is also a strength of *Tropical Africa* that the viewpoint is not solely that of the towns and of the young educated leaders who dominate so much of the current political scene. These are certainly important, but Africa is still largely rural. Many of its people

are conservatives with no great liking of, or respect for, many of the changes urged upon them. In this world of the countryside, much of the urge for change has come from the outside, often through European administrators and technicians who have striven to introduce new methods and institutions to people uncertain that they are desirable or worth the effort required of them. Something of the problems involved in successfully bringing about technical or institutional changes is made clear in the chapter on community development. With the emergence of the independent nations, the impetus to change given by the old administrators and technical officers will vanish. At the same time the development funds made available during the past 20 years by the various colonial powers can be expected to diminish. It will now be for the new African elite, whose origins and ambitions are sketched in another chapter, to channel the ambitions of their people behind schemes for economic and social change and, at the same time, to find funds to finance the projects. It is too soon to say whether the magic of independence will prove more fruitful than the old compulsions in assisting Africa to overcome its poverty and to provide a basis for rapid advance.

Volume 2 has a fascinating story to tell, and much of it, especially the long quotations from the background papers, is extremely valuable. Unfortunately it cannot be recommended as one would wish. A tendency to editorialize pervades the volume, and implicit and explicit biases distort the presentation. The first two chapters, on indigenous patterns of social life and on social change, are particularly bad in this respect. They will make the anthropologist cringe and wonder if 30 years of research can have been for naught. They will infuriate any Africans who read them, and rightly so. It is utter nonsense to write that Africa was in the Stone Age when the Europeans arrived. Iron-working was a well-established craft throughout Africa at the time and had been for a thousand years and more. African trade in iron, copper, and other metals was carried on for centuries before the Europeans came and stopped it. It is equally absurd to write that Africa had no centralized governments before colonial rule was established. If by this is meant no centralized governments on the present scale or on the present models, well and good; otherwise a most casual

knowledge of African conditions in the 19th century should have prevented such a statement. Both statements seem to be derived from a desire to stress the lag between European and African development. The same bias appears in the remark that "Africans like children" select some things and reject others. This is reminiscent of the old racialist myth that dark people and children are somehow alike and irrational, while Europeans are adult and rational. This is 1960, and such statements have long since disappeared from serious scholarly writing.

These are merely three instances, though flagrant ones, of the bias which distorts the first two chapters of this volume and which appears in somewhat less obvious form in the more factual chapters that follow. In a curious fashion, the volume seems pervaded by the thought and feelings characteristic of the 1940's. The implicit assumptions remain those of the colonial era, rather than those of the new period into which Africa is now moving. The tone is paternalistic and moralistic. There is a strong Christian bias, which colors the account of the role of Islam in Africa. If one can ignore all this, then there is much to appreciate in the chapters which describe administrative and political structures in the various African countries, methods of financing development, educational systems and the work of adult education, methods of community development, the work of the various churches, the organization of African trade unions, the control of disease, and the role of the new elite.

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X-Ray Absorption and Emission in Analytical Chemistry. H. A. Liebhafsky, H. G. Pfeiffer, E. H. Winslow, P. D. Zeman. Wiley, New York, 1960. 367 pp. Illus. \$13.50.

This book is intended for the analytical chemist who is entering the field of x-ray spectrochemical analysis, and thus far it is the most comprehensive book published for this purpose. The authors have covered almost every subject of interest to the intended reader, some more completely than others, but this is to be expected when dealing with a subject which overlaps several scientific fields.