

for easy administration, does provide the research worker with a highly refined scoring procedure which the author might well be able to utilize in further research in this field.

University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg

J. M. Z. MICHAU

Rhodesia's Pioneer Women (1859-1896) *Compiled by J. M. Lloyd, revised and enlarged by C. Parry.* Bulawayo, The Rhodesia Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society, 1974, 105pp., no price indicated.

Profiles of Rhodesia's Women Salisbury, National Federation of Business and Professional Women of Rhodesia, 1976, 176 pp., illustrated, Rh\$5.50.

The first of these books is a new edition, enlarged by some 360 entries, of the original edition of 1960. In all there are some 1 100 entries for women who entered Southern Rhodesia, mainly, of course, in the years 1892-6. The second book, published to mark International Women's Year 1975, is also a new edition, in effect, of the National Council of Women's publication in 1953, *Women of Central Africa*, which celebrated those who had made their mark in the first half of the century. The book contains entries of a hundred or so women lately prominent in Rhodesian life and also describes the main women's organisations. Neither book aims at being more than a biographical record, but the diversity of activities described in passing does throw some light on a situation in which 36 per cent of married European women are now actively employed economically.

R.S.R.

Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Rhodesia, 1924-1950
By H. Weinmann. Salisbury, University of Rhodesia, Series in Science Occasional Paper No. 2, 1975, 240pp., 29 Tables, Rh\$5.00.

This is the second volume by Dr Weinmann on this subject; the first covered the period 1890-1923 and was published in 1972 as a University of Rhodesia Occasional Paper.

Together these two volumes provide a detailed factual and chronological record of technical development in Rhodesia's agriculture. For this reason they can be described as histories but they will be more valuable as a source of information for the practising agricultural scientist or student; the historian will not find enough speculation or opinion on the causes, effects or importance of the various technical achievements described, to permit extrapolation in social or political terms and will therefore not be as interested.

Dr Weinmann's description of Rhodesia's agricultural development from 1890-1923 left me with three main impressions. First, the surprising fact that in spite of the great disparity in age between European and Rhodesian agriculture, research in agriculture was started in Rhodesia less than 60 years after its beginnings in Europe. What appears to be the main reason for the early initiation of agricultural research locally, makes the second impression, namely that as early as the turn of the century it was realised that mineral wealth would not, after all, be the draw card and that settlers would have to be attracted by the country's agricultural potential. The third impression is

the important role played by farmers and their own organisations in initiating, and often in financing and carrying out, agricultural research and development themselves. It is in fact possible to trace this strong independent pioneering spirit through the whole story that Dr Weinmann tells in this and the earlier volume.

From an agricultural point of view the second volume covers a much less interesting period. From 1924 to 1939 the effects of the economic depression and non-scientific leadership of a scientific activity like agricultural research, severely limited real technological progress. Then the war, and rebuilding after it, absorbed most of the available resources until 1950. The resultant stagnation is highlighted by the fact that the average maize yield for the last five years of the period (1945-6 to 1949-50) was less than 0.1 of a bag per acre higher than the average yield for the first five years, 1923-4 to 1927-8.

It is true that the famous hybrid maize breeding programme was initiated in 1933 and could not begin to influence yields until the fifties, but even this was due to the efforts of two or three dedicated individuals hampered, rather than assisted and encouraged, by the establishment. Without this hybrid maize breeding programme, agricultural research in Rhodesia would have had very little to boast of. Much of the subsequent and often outstanding success, other than with tobacco, was either stimulated or subsidised by the hybrid maize break-through.

The next instalment of the story of agricultural research and development in Rhodesia from 1951 to the end of the Federal era in 1963, would be worth recording soon because the yield and production increases achieved will be a better indication of the quality of the work done in preceding decades. Charles Murray, the last of the scientific leaders of Rhodesian agriculture, says in his Foreword that the forties saw the much wider use of fertilizers and manures, soil conservation, better husbandry methods and large increases in the strengths of technical departments, which were all long term investments that take time and yield dividends. This is true, but the Federal era that followed was, unfortunately, not one that maintained the momentum for agriculture, other than for the Extension Service which justifiably enjoyed a boom period, and for tobacco which had the wisdom to free its research from departmental control. Agricultural research was rated a low priority in Federal days compared with the expansion of education and health services and the development of communications, particularly in the two northern territories.

One of the two lessons clearly read between the lines of Dr Weinmann's second volume is that the interests of agricultural research, which are essentially for a stable, scientific atmosphere in which to work on the various commodities, have as a matter of Government policy, never been provided. Only in the case of tobacco did the grower have the strength and sense to shoulder the responsibility for his own research while the technical problems facing the producers of other commodities were thrown into the pot with roads, schools, police-posts and clinics. Wherever in the world the management of agricultural research is in the hands of Government, it has failed to meet the demands made on it by its customers, the farmers. Governments invariably have other, more important customers which it is politically expedient to consider first. The truth of the matter is that there is no sensible alternative to decentralization, localising and democratising agricultural research.

Dr Weinmann's second volume is a great improvement on the first in four important ways, it is a nicer size, has an easier-to-read type-face, is better bound and has good indexes of both subjects and names which were completely absent in the first publication.

Those interested in the technical development of agriculture and in improving its service to farmers will be grateful to Dr Weinmann, the University and the various sponsors for making these two publications possible and it is to be hoped that the difficult task of continuing the story will be tackled before long.

Sugar Experiment Station, Mount Edgecombe, Natal

P. A. DONOVAN

Cold Comfort Confronted By G. and M. Clutton-Brock. Oxford, Mowbray, 1972, 201pp., £1.25.

Rhodesian Black behind Bars By D. Mutasa. Oxford, Mowbray, 1974, x, 150pp., £0.95.

The Rhodesian Board of Censors has determined that neither of these two books will be available in Rhodesia. I am not entirely clear as to the purpose of reviewing 'banned' books in a Rhodesian journal. Is it to let the readers of the journal know that these 'illicit' books exist and give them an indication of their contents? Given the inevitable brevity of a review this cannot be of much help. Or is it to let some of the academic community abroad know that their colleagues in Rhodesia are not totally isolated and that they somehow still manage to get hold of banned books (usually on visits abroad)? Or is it to assess the potential value of such works for a limited circle of 'specialists' inside, and possibly outside, Rhodesia in terms of scholarly research, should they have, or be able to gain access to them? This last is probably the most realistic and useful objective. At the same time, the publication within the country of a review such as this could also be interpreted as a symbolic denial of the legitimacy of the political censorship which is practised in Rhodesia.

Be that as it may, the banning of these books as well as the fate of the authors, who have been closely associated with each other in the Cold Comfort co-operative farm venture, provide some significant pointers to the nature of Rhodesian society. I recall a meeting at the University of Rhodesia soon after my return to the country in 1969. It had been organised by the campus Current Affairs Association to commemorate the centennial of Ghandi's birth. The three speakers were Garfield Todd, Didymus Mutasa and Guy Clutton-Brock. Todd and Clutton-Brock obviously enjoyed the occasion and I remember the approving roar which issued from the predominantly black student audience as Clutton-Brock exclaimed: 'This year our black mothers will bear more babies than there are Europeans in Rhodesia!' I also remember my own incredulity at the fact that such speakers could still address a student gathering within Rhodesia in such terms. Of the three speakers, Mutasa was the most subdued and circumspect in his statements, as behoves a black man in the situation. Today none of them can operate freely in Rhodesia. Mutasa was detained late in 1970 and was only released two years later on condition that he left the country for Britain where he was to pursue a university education. Early in 1971 the Cold Comfort Farm Society itself was declared illegal, Clutton-Brock was stripped of his (acquired) Rhodesian citizenship and was deported. Todd was detained and later restricted to his farm after the Pearce Commission had arrived in early 1972 to test the acceptance of the Anglo-Rhodesian settlement proposals.

If one compares *Cold Comfort Confronted* and *Rhodesian Black behind*