

Dale Kenmuir is a research officer at the Lake Kariba Fisheries Research Institute. He is a quiet man who has proved to be very fluent with the pen. Some years ago he admitted a temptation to change his career to journalism. The text of his latest book reflects this desire in its free, easily readable style yet backed by scientific discipline and observation. The book is an account of biological changes which have taken place in the Zambesi Valley since the pre-impoundment surveys to the present time. Emphasis has been placed on early predictions (guesses) by various authorities and planning committees of what would occur and then what actually happened and continues to happen in the maturation process of an artificial lake. The story unfolds in nineteen short chapters. These cover the planning stage, the pre-flooded riverine environment, the river people, Operation Noah, changes to the fish populations, Kariba weed, drowned trees, tigerfish and sardines, eels, jellyfish, shrimps and sponges, birds and crocodiles. Woven into the thread of the text are quotations from scientific reports and papers from virtually every person who has been in some way involved in the multifaceted biology of Kariba over the past twenty years. Mr Kenmuir has done his homework well.

A review should include deserving criticism. I have only one comment. Those chapters dealing with fish catches (sardine, tigerfish and gill-net fisheries) stress the need for increased efficiency to realize the full protein-production potential of the lake. That the lake is currently underfished appears obvious. Mr Kenmuir has however omitted to warn of the existence of upper limits of exploitation in animal communities which if exceeded lead to biological overfishing. Examples exist for fish and whales of the great oceans and closer to home, Lakes Victoria and Malawi. Kariba cannot supply an unlimited source of food and careful management of its resources will become increasingly important.

The small pencil sketches by the author's wife, Morag, and the late Russel Williams (killed by terrorists) provide a visual atmosphere and to those who have lived there, a recall of irreplaceable memories. Whether or not you have been to Kariba you should read its story.

*The National Museum, Bulawayo*

B. G. DONNELLY

**The Struggle for Health** By J. Gilmurray, R. Riddell and D. Sanders. Gwelo, Mambo Press, Rhodesia to Zimbabwe No. 7, 1979, ZR\$0,65.

This small book, one of a series being published as Occasional Papers concerning the transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe, is written by three graduates of the University of Rhodesia, one an economist with an interest in development studies and the other two medical practitioners. The text, in six chapters, sets out a considerable amount of information concerning the demography of the people of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, their disease pattern and the historical development and present-day position of the health services in the country. There are extensive references to the various authorities and reports from which the authors derived their factual information and for a small booklet the information therein is extensive.

The authors state (p.34) that 'In general the health care services were good by standards in many other parts of the African continent.' They are alive to the contribution made to improved health in other parts of the

world, particularly the developed world, by better nutrition, good water supplies, adequate refuse and sewage disposal and reasonable shelter. Improvements in these essential needs can be brought about only by improved social conditions engendered by economic prosperity and the cessation of the present war which has had an adverse effect on the development of the country.

Few would argue with the authors that there must be an increasing delivery of health services at rural levels; the problem is to encourage people to work in such areas. They advocate the training of large numbers of village health workers (V.H.W.s) who would be invaluable, *provided they are willing to remain working in these areas on a part-time basis*. Only time will tell whether those already trained will be acceptable. In referring to the Advanced Clinical Nurse (A.C.N.) they state (p.43) that 'the A.C.N. is really a doctor in practically everything but name'. I would take issue with this and say they are highly skilled members of the nursing profession, a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant in modern parlance, but their basic training remains far short of that on which one would base the training of a medical practitioner. Efforts have been made in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Rhodesia to expose students throughout their career to the needs of community medicine, including a three-week attachment in their final year in a rural area. Of recent years, owing to the war situation, this has had to be curtailed but experience in primary medical health services is given in a rapidly developing urban township where many rural people are arriving daily. It is noted that neither of the two medical authors have spent any time working in the rural areas of Rhodesia, where their experience might have been broadened and thus brought greater professional relevance to the text.

In this reviewer's opinion the basic structure of the health services of Zimbabwe is sound. Their development depends on peace not war and increasing economic prosperity. Many of the ideas suggested by the authors are already incorporated in the programme for the future and others will be readily adopted when the situation, both economic and military, allows. It is pleasing to see, even if from two authors who appear to be London based, that they are aware of the needs of rural as opposed to urban health services. It is to be hoped that they and others will join with those in Zimbabwe to help in providing the expertise to develop many of their proposals in the future.

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W. FRASER ROSS

**Alternatives to Poverty** By R. Riddell. Gwelo, Mambo Press, Rhodesia to Zimbabwe No. 1, 20pp., ZR\$0,30.

This booklet is the first in a series of monographs in which a range of issues likely to confront policy makers on development in a legally independent Zimbabwe are discussed.

The work falls into two main sections. One provides an historical summary of the process of development which has shaped the economy as it now stands, noting a number of current social and economic problem areas. The other looks to the future, attempting to address in broad outline