

population census is also timely and will be widely endorsed in all sections of the community in Zimbabwe.

Agricultural Marketing Authority, Salisbury

E. G. CROSS

The Woman's Guide to Law through Life *By The Women in Development Research Unit*. Salisbury, University of Rhodesia, Centre for Inter-racial Studies, 1979, 43pp., Z\$0.50.

African Women in Urban Employment *By Joan May*. Gwelo, Mambo Press, Occasional Paper, Socio-Economic Series 12, 83pp., Z\$2.00.

The first booklet under review attempts to outline the law as it affects African women in matters concerning marriage, birth, children, death and widowhood. The title does not give an idea of the target population of the handbook, and the fact that it focuses on African law excludes non-African women who could also benefit from a simplified handbook (witness the success in Britain of Anna Coote and Tessa Gill's *Women's Rights: A Practical Guide* (Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1974)).

The handbook will be of limited use to a large number of African women who are not literate in English but who could benefit more from a vernacular version of the handbook. Some points are given briefly without an accompanying explanation, e.g. why it is necessary to have a 'genuine go-between' if the guardian of a woman who is getting married is a Purchase Area farmer.

However, the handbook is useful, simply because it raises points for discussion on procedure, thus stimulating more interest and inquiry by women into the whole arena of customary law and its effects on African women's status. It is also useful to community workers who deal with women in clubs and so forth, and can help bring attention to legal issues that women are not aware of.

The second booklet highlights the cultural, economic and social disadvantages imposed on women in urban employment. It makes useful suggestions for improving the lot of women, e.g. the establishment of women's bureaux. This is a useful suggestion in view of the shortage of information that can be used to guide action in the field of women's welfare and emancipation. However, the author falls short of her stated intention of identifying motivational factors which would draw women into agriculture where, she says, there is a chronic labour shortage. Also she does not suggest how women can realize their potential in a rural, agricultural setting where agricultural and economic activity is male-dominated and male-oriented. Despite this, the paper highlights the wastage of female resources and presents a challenge to agricultural and rural policy-makers and their counterparts in urban commerce and industry.

University of Zimbabwe

RUDO GAIDZANWA