

do not easily fall in line with the thrust of protest African literature. His is an unsettling voice closer perhaps to A. Kwei Armah's in *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* (1968) and Yambo Ouologuem's *Bound to Violence* (1968). Flora Veit-Wild's book captures in detail the complex and often conflicting facets of Marechera's life and art. The work of Marechera and his life are shown as closely related and near the anarchist tradition. The book is accessible to most members of the public and a more than welcome source of information for literary scholars.

Literary works referred to in the text

ARMAH A. K., *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* (London, Heinemann, 1963).

MARECHERA D., *House of Hunger* (London, Heinemann, 1978).

—, *The Black Insider* (Harare, Baobab Books, 1990).

—, *Black Sunlight* (London, Heinemann, 1980).

—, *Mindblast* (Harare, College Press, 1984).

—, *Cemetery of The Mind* (Harare, College Press, 1984).

OULOQUEM Y., *Bound to Violence* (Oxford, Heinemann Int., 1968).

WILD F., *Dambudzo Marechera: A Source Book on his Life and Work* (Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, 1992).

University of Zimbabwe

R. ZHUWARARA

AIDS: Action Now: Information, Prevention and Support in Zimbabwe
By H. Jackson. Harare, Aids Counselling Trust and School of Social Work,
2nd edn., 1992, xvii, 334 pp., ISBN 0-7974-1146-1, Z\$25.

The second edition of *AIDS: Action Now* is so substantially revised that it scarcely resembles the first edition. The new edition bears the stamp of the author's own longstanding involvement in AIDS research, prevention and treatment programmes. The chapters are well chosen, covering most major areas of AIDS activity. The book is comprehensive, insightful and readable. It skilfully interweaves scientific publications, workshop proceedings, conference papers, donor-agency reports, newspaper articles, letters and interviews with AIDS workers. Its presentation is appealing as it includes numerous maps, graphs, charts, cartoons, samples of educational materials and photographs. Well-chosen quotations heighten the reader's interest. Boxes are skilfully used to complement the main text, particularly in highlighting the key points at the end of the chapter. Each chapter also contains reference lists.

The book begins with a chapter on the global, regional and national epidemiology of HIV and AIDS. The global review is excellent, as is the

Zimbabwean analysis which notes that, unlike many countries in eastern and central Africa, Zimbabwe has comparatively high levels of HIV infection in rural areas — probably because of Zimbabwe's relatively well-developed transport infrastructure. I think regional differences could have been more closely examined. Why, for example, are HIV rates in Zambia's Copperbelt and Luapula provinces apparently several-fold higher than those in Zaïre's contiguous Shaba province? Similarly, why are HIV infection levels apparently so much higher in many East African countries than in most of West Africa (excluding Côte d'Ivoire)? Are the underlying dynamics of HIV transmission inherently different between East and West Africa? Such an analysis has important implications for an understanding of the socio-economic concomitants of HIV transmission and for the formulation of prevention strategies.

The chapter on biomedical aspects of HIV and AIDS, notwithstanding minor technical quibbles, will be of particular value to individuals and families seeking to understand the symptoms and progression of HIV illness. The chapter on the transmission of HIV highlights the role of STD in facilitating HIV transmission, but does not address the derivative question as to whether substantial investment in STD prevention and control will demonstrably reduce HIV transmission. The section on avoiding HIV transmission gives sound advice for the individual and highlights general areas and issues for consideration in prevention programmes. Programmes for vulnerable groups, such as prostitutes and their clients, long-distance truck drivers and soldiers, are stressed, but the underlying logic and controversy of the 'core group' theory is not presented. By citing many reasons people give for not using condoms, the author may unintentionally actually 'mystify condom use'. Regardless of the objections people may cite, the evidence strongly suggests that wherever condoms have been intensively promoted in Africa, a rapid and dramatic increase in condom use has resulted. Up to now the fault has been with our programmes not our audiences.

The section on testing is good, probing the personal issues involved in seeking an HIV test and the economic wisdom of apportioning a large proportion of medical resources to HIV testing. The only possible addition to this chapter would be a critique of recent data from Rwanda and Uganda on the role of counselling centres and anonymous testing.

The chapter on self-help and community support provides useful advice for the individual and valuable examples of support programmes for communities, but concrete programme advice is not provided. Community care is well introduced and sound advice is offered to anyone with HIV or anyone who is caring for somebody with HIV but, as is the case with much of the literature, there is little analysis of its cost-effectiveness or large-scale feasibility. Recent studies by Susan Foster (1993) and her colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of community care in Monze District Hospital in southern Zambia reflect a growing pessimism about the cost-effectiveness of community care. The founder of one of Zimbabwe's least expensive home-care programmes

recently estimated that the cost of their community-care programme was on average about Z\$200 per home visit. Ways of reducing the cost of community care are urgently needed.

The counselling section is probably the best I have read, but there is no debate regarding the priority that should be assigned to counselling. It may be argued that counselling is perceived by communities as less important than ongoing Person with Aids (PWA) support groups and solidarity, community care, material support and orphan and survivor support programmes and that counselling is frequently a refuge of organizations who feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of other needs and who do not have experience of outreach work or of planning and managing community-based programmes.

The section on AIDS and employment, drawn partly from Ms Jackson's seminal work (Jackson and Pitts, 1989) in this area, is very useful. The chapter on public awareness, policy and programmes is interesting and wide-ranging, perhaps too much so. The recommendations are admirable, but there is little indication of the four or five most critical areas upon which Zimbabwe should focus its greatest energies. The final chapter, on education for change, outlines many options and offers advice, but includes little concrete help on programme management. AIDS training programmes consistently find that organizations have a general linguistic and conceptual familiarity with AIDS approaches that belies their ability to plan and manage intensive, sustained outreach programmes. The cost-effectiveness of different intervention strategies could also have been examined.

In conclusion, *AIDS: Action Now* is comprehensive, readable and affordable. It is a remarkable achievement, one which deserves the widest possible circulation in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa.

References

- S. FOSTER, *Cost and Burden of AIDS on Zambian Health Care System: Policies to Mitigate the Impact on Health Services* (Virginia, John Snow Inc., 1993).
- H. JACKSON, and M. K. PITTS, 'AIDS and the press: An analysis of the coverage of AIDS by Zimbabwe newspapers', *AIDS Care* (1989), 1, 1, 62-64.

University of Zimbabwe

D. WILSON