

Book Reviews

Journal of Social Science, 1972, Volume 1. Limbe, University of Malawi, 130 pp. £1.40.

Readers of *Zambezia* will welcome the appearance of a not dissimilar journal for Malawi. It contains articles on Malawi history (notably Professor Pachai on the early relationship between state and churches and Dr. Chanock on colonial agriculture in the 1920s), and on various aspects of the law and its administration in Malawi today.

The journal is not, however, restricted to Malawi and there are interesting articles on Zambia (Lusaka Market Vendors and on the long history of copper mining) and industrialisation in Africa during the colonial period. In all, an auspicious first issue; we wish the journal well.

R.S.R.

BENNET, N. R. and YLVISAKER, M. eds. 1971 *The Central African Journal of Lovell J. Procter, 1860-1864*. Boston, Boston University, African Studies Center, 502 pp. no price indicated.

Despite recent trends in African historiography which rightly have emphasized the history of the indigenous peoples of the continent, much interest remains in the earliest European missionary endeavours. In part, this may stem from the aura many of these hardy Christians now enjoy, even among the Africans whose forefathers they came to convert; but it is also due to growing historical investigations into the interactions between them and the indigenous peoples among whom they laboured. Certainly both of these contemporary concerns apply to the first Universities Mission to Central Africa which came to the Shiré highlands over a century ago. The tragic story of sacrifice and death is widely known today. And so too is the physical violence which the missionaries turned to in an effort to suppress the slave trade they so deeply abhorred. Thus the recent publication of this journal of the senior priest of the mission, is a welcome addition to the literature.

Procter was easily the least colourful of the Magomero missionaries, and this is confirmed in his journal. Seldom are there flashes of anger, joy, or any emotion. Nor has he much to add to the numerous and often vitriolic discussions concerning the other, more dynamic men associated with the U.M.C.A. efforts. Yet his observations on the land and people around him are of great value, despite a measure of ethnocentrism which however he shared with all his contemporaries, even David Livingstone. Among the members of the U.M.C.A. mission and Livingstone's Zambezi Expedition, Procter alone provides an adequate picture of African life, including glimpses of some of the key African figures involved with these enterprises. In particular, his discussion of the history of Chibisa, the upstart chief on the Shiré who was made famous by Livingstone's praise, is unique; what is more, it contains details which make a substantial contribution to the understanding of African history in the region.