

## 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.

Likewise, Procter provides some new and valuable insights into the operations of the U.M.C.A. mission as well. This is particularly true concerning the frequent military activities undertaken by the missionaries against the Yao, whom they saw as invading slavers, disrupting the local Manganja and Lomwe populations. Throughout the journal his own quiet opposition to these actions clearly emerges, including his critical analysis of the factors which brought about the mission's martial activities. Such criticism allows historians a better perspective on this aspect of the work of the U.M.C.A. in the Shire Highlands, and lends support to the numerous attacks made in Britain at the time against their use of forceful means.

Unfortunately, this and other important contributions which Procter's journal might make are buried in nearly five hundred pages of text with little to guide the reader. The editors have provided only a brief introduction to Procter and the U.M.C.A. mission. Instead of attempting a more complete analysis, they inconveniently asked the reader to turn for further enlightenment to Owen Chadwick's *Mackenzie's Grave* (London, 1959). This is unfortunate because Chadwick does little to illuminate Procter's role within the small missionary band, despite having had access to the manuscript of his journal. This might have been redeemed had the journal been carefully annotated, as the senior editor, Professor Bennett, ably has done for several other works (*From Zanzibar to Ujiji, the Journal of Arthur W. Dodgshun*; with George Brooks, *New England Merchants in Africa*; and *Stanley's Dispatches to the New York Herald*). This volume, however, possesses not

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a single annotation. Such glaring deficiencies may be the result of hasty preparation, but they probably reflect the relative lack of familiarity with the history of the Shire Highlands and with Central Africa in general.

This not only makes the journal less readily understandable to the general reader; it also presents pitfalls for the scholar. For example, at no point do the editors tell us that portions of Procter's original journals were lost, one section in his flight from a near ambush at Manasomba's village on the Ruw River, another when fire destroyed the hut in which he was living at Chibisa's. In each case, Procter managed to reconstruct the missing segments, though he confessed that they might be 'only partially restored'. These passages are often quite detailed and contain much valuable material, including the bulk of the history of Chibisa. But to what extent are they Procter's observations and not those of his colleagues whose diaries he appears, even at other times, to have consulted freely? If these are his own reconstructions, how accurately can they reflect what actually happened, having been recalled, in each case, not only after the passage of time but also falling closely on the heels of somewhat cataclysmic events? Not only do the editors fail to consider such points, they appear to be ignorant of them.

Fortunately, we can thank the editors and the African Studies Center at Boston University for at least bringing Procter's own words to a wider audience. In this way his journal of the first U.M.C.A. mission, as well as his valuable and relatively dispassionate observations on the Africa he knew, will be a useful aid to a wide range of scholars interested in Central Africa.

M. E. PAGE

MURRAY, D. J. 1970 *The Governmental System in Southern Rhodesia*. Oxford, Clarendon Press. xxi, 393 pp. £4.

The thesis of this book is to dispute the 'prevailing interpretation of politics, founded on the study made by Leys and on the preconceptions he shared . . . [which] misunderstands the character of the established governmental system of the period, and substitutes for the actual dynamics, provided by the intense inter-group competition among those in European society, a belief that change in the period was to be attributed to the actions

of a united European race which felt its dominant position to be threatened' (p. 370). In *European Politics in Southern Rhodesia* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1959) Leys had predicted a swing to the party which offered the best safeguard to European interests, such changes to be accommodated within the established governmental system. Murray, however, finds that 'what occurred after 1962, was not a swing towards illiberalism within a continuing gov-