the establishment of rural, cottage and agro-industries for removing the excessive pressure on land, better marketing through improved communications, a more intensive and extensive agricultural extension organisation and a co-ordinating agency for a balanced development of the economy of agriculture and prosperity of the agriculturists and agricultural labourers.

The study is limited in respect of both the area surveyed and the aspects covered. The indicators studied to gauge the influence of irrigation are not by themselves adequate for a proper assessment of the effects of irrigation. A canal system is likely to have far-reaching effects on the economic life of the community in the area commanded by the canal system as well as to some extent on the economic life of community outside the area commanded by it. The secondary and tertiary effects, however, do not lend themselves to an easy and precise assessment. It would have been worthwhile if the effects of irrigation on the size of holdings, the land values, the class of agriculturists mainly benefited and the organisational problems concerning the proper utilisation of irrigation facilities were also studied.

Bashir A. Desai


This short book of 158 pages is really three-books-in-one and renders an integrated (overall) judgment almost impossible, for the three pieces do not really hang together and show great unevenness in the matter of treatment. The first two pieces could have been integrated but this has not been done; from the first two to the third is a discrete jump. At each stage the book grows but does not evolve. Yet the authors have somehow seen it fit to put the whole thing between two covers.

In addition to the lack of an overall plan, the book also shows some marks of haste and insufficient attention to detail. The separate contributions of each author have been indicated in some detail (p. 106) only for Chapter VII, not for others. That the words ‘this country’ (p. 102) in a book about and published in India should refer to Britain is curious and also confusing. The earlier enthusiasm of the authors for a machine revolution (p. 24) does not accord well with the more sobering reflections elsewhere in the book. These are, however, comparatively minor defects.

The three ‘pieces’ that the reviewer has in mind do not conform to the ‘parts’ into which the book has been divided, nor to any specific grouping of chapters. Yet it seems there are three distinct subjects covered in this book—(1) an analytical essay which explores the distinguishing characteristics of commercial and non-commercial farming and the application of this analysis to conditions of Indian agriculture, (2) general development in the Indian economy on a wide front of industry, population, health, education, etc., and (3) planning of ‘civilization.’

The first piece is an attempt to evolve an analytical framework which could be used for examining different types of agriculture. With their preoccupation
for things non-agricultural the authors seem to have provided inadequate attention to this subject. The two seven-point analyses are a good starting point but call for a greater refinement and subtlety for a meaningful application to the problems of Indian agriculture. In its present form it is more suitable for application to agricultural economies which are entirely of either the one type or the other. It is for this reason that the statement (p. 34) in respect of commercial food crops in India — "This is the section of Indian agriculture to which the commercial type of analysis..............applies with least modification" — looks suspect. The general framework for the analysis of subsistence farming does seem adequate to accommodate that sector of Indian agriculture but the commercial food crops sector does not fit in with either of the two categories and hangs midway between the two. Moreover, it is not quite clear whether two different sets of policies would really be required for the two sectors in India; and also whether it is indeed practicable to devise such policies for different sectors within the same economy. These questions would not have perhaps arisen had the authors' treatment been more thorough-going and exhaustive. The major drawback of this section of the book is insufficient elaboration. In particular, a close examination of policies and developments in Indian agriculture in the light of the theory evolved would have been very helpful, e.g., if policies of price support lead to a mal-distribution of resources (p. 13) in the commercial type of agriculture, what role should they play in Indian agriculture?

One important conclusion to which this analysis leads the authors is that, "in an economy in which agriculture predominates, means of promoting the welfare of farmers and their employees will be found largely in developments outside agriculture" (p. 2). They, therefore, turn to these broader aspects. Chapters III to VII are taken up with many of these developments but they amount to little more than statistical summaries. The exact bearing of these on agriculture has not been indicated. It goes without saying that developments in the non-farm sector would have a relation to developments within the farm sector; in fact it is a rich field for investigation; but the relationships need to be made more explicit. This is not to suggest that there are no interesting observations and sidelights. The insistence on the use of the radio as an instrument of education, though too frequently emphasised, remains valuable. Much the same could be said regarding the idea of the 'standard target form' and the employment of non-economic incentives, such as the competitive spirit, for the realization of these targets. But there is much that is already familiar and could have been dispensed with,

If one views this book as a contribution to agricultural economics there would be justification for remaining unsatisfied for the reasons just stated. But we may end on a different note. As the book draws to a close it soars into still broader issues and unexpectedly takes an interesting turn. Chapter IX on "Means and Ends" is an essay into a sort of 'economics beyond economics' and is remarkably fresh in its outlook and tenor. The only trouble is that it has little to do with the earlier parts of the book. It is concerned neither with agriculture, nor with economic development as usually understood but with what one might describe as the development of 'civilization.' It deals with subjects which economists, consciously or unconsciously following the dictum of Keynes ('Economists are the trustees, not of civilization, but of the possibility of civilization'), have not as yet much bothered to probe into.
The goal visualised here is not that of economic development in the sense of increase in material wealth but that of 'self-realization' or 'fulfilment' of every individual. The channels along which fulfilment could be sought are clearly defined and analysed (p. 121 ff.) and they include aesthetic pursuit, intellectual inquiry, development of human relations and fellowship and "conviction of contact with the source or cause of being," the last of which has been only mentioned and not discussed further. These 'values' could be enjoyed both in production and leisure which together constitute the whole of economic life. A maximisation of these values ought to be the real goal of society. The pattern of production organization and the use of leisure hours could be consciously planned to yield as large a bonus of these values as possible (a committee of philosophers could make suitable recommendations). Increase in material wealth beyond a certain point is believed to be an obstacle to the realization of the higher values. At the same time increase in productivity which increases leisure and makes room for greater fulfilment through spare-time activity requires advance of technique which in itself might conflict with the ideal pattern of production organization. Thus the necessity of a compromise.

After this disquisition the authors try to classify different productive pursuits and arrange them in an ascending order of their contribution to 'fulfilment.' In table 12 (pp. 133-135) they make an attempt to indicate the movement of the Indian economy towards fulfilment by comparing man-power distribution into various occupations at two points of time.

This is all very stimulating though the reader may on occasion pick up a quarrel with the system of classification or with certain indicators of progress. The line of inquiry followed here may be looked upon as a beginning which may be developed further. It holds great promise of much fruitful work. The authors believe that India is specially suited for an adventure of this kind. This may or may not be so. They contend, for example, that the Indian thinkers have specialized in the 'combination of values' and contemplation of 'human states.' The examples they cite are inappropriate since they do not indicate how happily different values can be combined. Whatever that may be, the embryonic ideas presented in this chapter may be expected to give a more definite content to the usually vague notions of those who have been against 'industrialism.' They might perhaps open up a bridge between economists on the one hand and Gandhi, Vinoba and Jayaprakash on the other and lend a greater clarity to an ancient debate. It would be sad indeed if these ideas fail to reach a wider audience because of being included, as an after-thought, in a book on agricultural economics.

There are few minor blemishes which affect the quality of the book and could have been easily avoided. For example, in the last but first line on p. 107 the figure ought to be 64.7 million and not 110 million. On p. 31 a different table showing the percentage of each export to the total value of production would have been more appropriate.

S. H. DESHPANDE