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that a separate section on land holdings would have been very useful to persons working on the subject. Certain reports have been cited on agro-economic surveys of selected composite blocks in West Bengal. These could have been included under the section rural reconstruction and community development since these surveys were primarily undertaken for and by the community development agencies. An important survey like J. C. Kumarappa's '*A Survey of Matar Taluka (1931)*' has not been mentioned under the socio-economic surveys. There are a few books which do not contain much material on agricultural economics and allied subjects but have been included perhaps because in their content, reference to agricultural economics was discovered. A certain discrimination here was called for in selecting those books which primarily dealt with agricultural economics and related subjects. In this light the whole section on village and subsidiary industries on page 187 appears to be rather superfluous. These books relate to the industry sector proper and not agricultural economics as such. The reviewer feels that there is a scope for enhancing the utility of the Bibliography by adding author and subject indices at the end. This is particularly necessary when a large number of books has been mentioned. Apart from this one feels rather disappointed by a cryptic preface. A brief introduction reviewing the developments in the literature on agricultural economics would have provided a stimulating material to the research worker. This would have given some idea to the readers as to the shift in focus of interest on research work at different times as we advance.

It would have facilitated references if decimal system in the chapter contents was followed. There are a few mistakes of proof-reading or typographical errors such as on pages 58, 180, 182, etc. Inclusion of the serials, *i. e.*, periodicals, etc., should have better been postponed since the treatment of serials does not come up anywhere near to the excellent annotation given by the UNESCO Research Centre's Abstract of Social Science Periodicals. Such an omission would not have in any way marred the utility of the publication. These are all very marginal suggestions which the Directorate of Economics and Statistics might take note of while issuing the third edition. On the whole, the Bibliography has commendably served the primary purpose of reference book of the material available in different branches of agricultural economics. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics has rendered a very useful service by issuing such a Bibliography which will have a permanent value both for the administrator as well as the research worker.

S. M. SHAH

Then and Now (1933-1958): A Study of Socio-Economic Structure and Change in Some Villages near Visva-Bharati University, Bengal, Hashim Amir Ali, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, Asia Publishing House, Bombay and Statistical Publishing Society, Calcutta, 1960. Pp. vii + 123. Rs. 10.50

Studies dealing with socio-economic change have a special significance in India at the present juncture. Although change could be studied along different continua, the study of change along the time continuum, at different intervals, is of primary importance. It is fortunate that a few such studies have already been published recently, the present book being one of them. This work is based on two surveys of the same villages conducted at two points of time. A special

feature of this work is that both the survey investigations which are separated in time by a quarter of a century were conducted by the same persons including the author himself.

The author has called attention to two major findings : the general economic condition of the people of the villages surveyed has not improved over the years and the correlation between caste hierarchy and economic gradation that existed at the time of the first survey has not altered even after twenty-five years. While the first of these conclusions emerges clearly from his analysis, the second is not so evident.

The main data are analysed into two parts. The first part refers to a single village, Goalpara and the second to a cluster of four villages. The population of Goalpara, both now and then, neatly falls into three main categories of castes called the High Castes, the Middle Castes and the Low Castes which also form an economic hierarchy in that order. The author's conclusion that the correlation existing between social stratification and economic gradation has not changed is, therefore, justified so far as this village is concerned.

In the cluster of villages two more categories, those of Muslims and Santals have been added. But here the relative economic positions of the various population categories have not remained the same. First of all even in 1933 the economic gradation of the Higher Castes and Middle Castes did not correspond to their social gradation arrived at on an *a priori* basis. The assets of the Middle Castes were higher than those of the Higher Castes and the incomes of the two categories were almost equal. In 1958 the Middle Castes had stolen a march on the Higher Castes with regard to their incomes also. In the same manner the Santals whose income in 1933 was lower than that of Low Castes, earned a higher income in 1958. The economic condition of the Higher Castes and the Muslims had deteriorated.

All the same there is a point in the author's laying emphasis on the fact that caste still has a stronghold in our rural society. The gap existing between the socio-economic conditions of the higher and lower sections of the population is still very wide. This is hardly surprising, for, significant changes in the relative economic conditions of castes can be brought about only by radical socio-economic changes in the village life. And there had been no such transforming influences in the villages studied.

However, the outlook for the future becomes hopeful when we look at the educational situation. In the cluster of villages for which figures are available, 58 per cent of the school-age children were attending school in 1957 as against only 22 per cent in 1933.

Over the past 25 years the population increased by 48 per cent in Goalpara and by only 4 per cent in the cluster of villages. But the increase in households did not keep pace with the increase in population and consequently the family size in the former case increased from 4.3 to 5.3 and in the latter from 4.1 to 4.6. It is interesting to note that in Goalpara the proportion of households consisting of two married couples increased from 5 per cent in 1933 to 20 per cent in

1959. This finding should provide some food for thought for those who take it for granted that the traditional family pattern in India was one of joint family.

Three sets of village notes prepared in 1933 are appended at the end of the book. These make interesting reading and provide insightful pen pictures of rural life.

The get-up of the book is excellent but in quite a few cases the figures have been misprinted. Table 1.5 on page 19 is rather puzzling. But this is not due to misprints, although there is one omission even here. The Table shows that while in 1933, the 37 households of Low Castes had 55 persons engaged in different occupations, in 1958 the 48 households among them had only 38 such persons.

These minor flaws, however, should not detract from the value of the author's real contribution to the study of socio-economic change in rural India.

VICTOR S. D'SOUZA

A Study of the British Co-operative Movement (Based on Co-operative Independent Commission's Report), M. V. Madane, Bombay State Co-operative Union, Bombay, 1961. Pp. viii+159. Rs. 6.00.

This publication is a "studied paper" which the author prepared as a part of his work for the Co-operative Honours Diploma in the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, U.K. It has exhaustively brought out the Report of the Co-operative Independent Commission headed by the Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party of England. The Report of the Commission has mainly gone into the weaknesses of the British Co-operative Movement *vis-a-vis* the growing influence of the private multiple trade organizations in Great Britain.

The title of the book could have more appropriately been "A Study of the Co-operative Independent Commission's Report" instead of "A Study of the British Co-operative Movement" since except a few paragraphs in Chapter 1, which describe the process of development of co-operative principles and practices from the days of Mr. Robert Owen, Dr. King of Brighton and Rochdale Pioneers, there is nothing in the publication which goes beyond the coverage of the Report of the Independent Commission. The publication is essentially a summary of the Co-operative Independent Commission's Report with occasional attempts at interpretation of its various recommendations and their applicability to the Indian conditions. However, to the extent to which the Report of the Commission itself is a study of the British Co-operative Movement, Shri Madane's publication also justifies its title.

It will be both irrelevant and unwieldy to review the Report of the Co-operative Independent Commission only because the publication by the Bombay State Co-operative Union mostly summarises it. On a study of the author's own analysis of the recommendations of the Commission it is felt that on the whole, in