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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

his enthusiasm to profusely quote the Report, the author has not gone into any deeper analysis of the various recommendations and their applicability to the Indian conditions. For example in the Chapter on "Basic Principles of Co-operative Democracy" the author is somewhat sceptical of the Commission's recommendation regarding the pressure groups dominating the co-operative movement. He thinks that the influence of pressure groups is the inevitable consequence of participation by a few and the situation cannot be remedied unless solution is found to encourage effective participation by a large number of members. The author thinks that the pious wish of the Commission to avoid conflict between democratic control and business efficiency cannot be achieved by separating and clearly defining functions of the management and governing body and this process has to be preceded by an understanding and education on the part of the average member. However, can the clear understanding on the part of the members, of the functions of the management on one hand and the governing body on the other, be not considered as a part of the "understanding and education" of an average member? The Commission has highlighted one of the most important principles which has a very wide scope for application in India, namely, that the management should be independent within its defined functions and "the ultimate control" in co-operative democracy should not interfere with the functions of the management in framing day-to-day policies.

In the same Chapter the author also comes to a conclusion that if the principle of local autonomy is to be regarded as an essential aspect of the wider principle of Co-operative Democracy, great care will have to be taken to retain local identity of the societies. The author thinks that the societies should not amalgamate, if they could not retain local identity. Discussing the conditions in India, the author thinks that the basic unit of all co-operative activity still remains in the village society, which has already become the centre of activity of the social and economic life of the villages. This appears to be a little too generalized version of a few instances. Perhaps, the proportion of village societies which have become the "centre of activity of the social and economic life of the villages" is quite small in different parts of the country and there are equal number of instances, if not more, of larger units covering more than one village also being quite successful in becoming a centre of economic activity in the group of villages which they serve. Moreover, the author also concedes that the village society is also being used as a centre of political propaganda and pressures. It obviously means that the influence of pressure groups prevails irrespective of what the basic unit is. It would have been much helpful if the author had gone into this question *vis-a-vis* the Commission's recommendation in greater detail.

The other recommendations of the Commission, *viz.*, on the system of retail distribution, source of retail supplies, dividend on purchases, dividend and price policy, management and the structure of the societies and the management of shops, labour relations, sources of capital, co-operative production, control of National Federations and so on, have also been exhaustively covered. With all its limitations, however, the publication will be a useful addition to the libraries of co-operators as a good summary of the Report of the Co-operative Independent Commission.