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just to industrial life but to seniority rules, pension plans, and welfare programmes. In India, for example, the transition from the traditional work rules of the village to the contractual work rules of industrial life probably is not as great as commonly assumed.

The book is a helpful contribution to the growing literature on the non-economics of economic development. However, its style is mainly assertive and speculative, with empirical demonstration such as Udy's exceptional rather than common-place. Emphasis is on cultural and psychological rather than institutional factors. The authors have addressed their research peers so the policy-maker will find few ready-made recommendations on, say, factory training programmes, public education, housing or transportation.

Agricultural economists may find valuable insights into some important features of the exits from agriculture, so crucial for agrarian development in some countries. Solutions to many industrial recruitment and employment problems perhaps extend to the farm and village. If so, policies for an industrial labour force might well be an important feature of agricultural development programmes.

Merits or demerits of this particular volume aside, one might speculate the value of the published conference or seminar as an epistemological device. What is the probability of one or two dozen specialists simultaneously having something so important to say, and so cogently developed, that nothing can be omitted? Is an author, committed to an editorial deadline for a chapter, likely to produce as thorough and polished a work as he might have for a journal? Can an editor maintain a central line of argument (of any useful specificity) and yet permit each of a collection of specialists to develop a subject in the way he sees fit? The collected papers of conferences, symposia, and seminars appear to be a growing proportion of social science literature.

Those concerned with the transmission and storage of research results might question the relative advantages of these anthologies *vis-a-vis* other media. Since the energies of research authors and readers are limited, serious thought should be given to the combination of media desired. One would inquire about the book under review, for example, how many of the ideas should have been (or have been) transmitted through the journals.

G. WUNDERLICH

Blossoms in the Dust: The Human Element in Indian Development, Kusum Nair, Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd., London, 1961. Pp. xxv + 201. 21s.

In these days when a student of social sciences is apt to look with disdain any writing which is innocent of random sampling, standard error and multiple regression, it would come as a surprise to many what a perceptive observer with no other scientific tool than an intelligent mind, an observant eye and sympathetic disposition can accomplish in bringing to surface the many hidden obstacles to plans of social and economic development of rural areas. The author of this book is a journalist by profession—but with a difference. Her interest lies not so much in the news of the day, but in human attitudes to work and life which, in

the ultimate analysis, shape the future. "A tremendous effort is under way in India to wipe out poverty and initiate a sweeping technological revolution through democratic planning. Kusum Nair's purpose was to discover the impact of this planned development on the economic attitudes and value systems of the rural communities which constitute 70 per cent of the Indian population"—says the blurb on the jacket. Probably what she has attempted to find out is the vice versa, *i.e.*, the impact of attitudes and value systems on plans of development. In any case, the attempt is highly successful. The social scientist may draw his own conclusion, but he has in this book a vivid word-picture of confrontation of intentions and achievements, of programmes and men and women for whom they are intended, of action and inaction, enthusiasm and apathy.

The pictures one sees have varying lights and shades. In the Bhavani Canal area, the peasants want to cultivate paddy, despite the Government ban; and draw more water than is legally permitted. Many cultivators are paying a penalty of as much as Rs. 60 per acre for doing so. In one taluk, "the penalties imposed for this year alone amount to about Rs. 3,50,000 for illegal cultivation of rice on the Lower Bhavani Project irrigation lands." But in several villages within the command area of the Tungabhadra Project, "not a single peasant has yet deigned to avail himself of the irrigation facilities." The irrigation channel runs right through Meerappa's farm. But he lets the water flow by unused. He owns ten acres of land.

In the village Budelpali in Orissa, the local agricultural extension officer goes on hunger strike—sitting in a village temple and refusing to take any food—to persuade the peasantry to sow for a second irrigated winter crop of paddy! In the same State, to the peasants in the Pradhanatikara village—within the Hirakud Project—"water looked like milk." It was the holy Gangajal. So when the irrigation water first came they went to the canal with offerings of rice, coconut and flowers and worshipped it!

What can the social scientist—and the planner—make of such glaring contrasts in behaviour? 'The importance of the human factor,' no doubt. But surely this does not mean that there have to be as many approaches and techniques as there are individuals. The point is, can the differing behaviour be fully explained in terms of categories like caste, illiteracy, economic status, cultural levels, traditional beliefs, aspiration scale? It does not take us very far to say, as the author does, "a community's attitude to work can be a more decisive determinant for raising productivity in Indian agriculture than material resources, or for that matter even technology." It may also be readily admitted that "there is no uniformity in the prevailing value systems" which determine pattern of response. But are we in a position to provide a rationale of this diversity? And even if we can, do we know the science (or is it an art?) and the technique for bringing about a change in the value system and make it more responsive to plans, programmes and policies for development? Is the process of change purely educational or can it be influenced and accelerated by new technology and institutional reform, or by what the Marxists call 'processes and relations of production?'

The author has provided a rich material for the social scientist. It is of course not gathered through the methodology of random sampling and does not

lend itself to quantitative analysis. And yet, there is no doubt, every detail rings true. Even as case studies, their range and depth would qualify the book as a significant contribution to the literature on the process of social change and economic development. Above all, it is a delightfully readable book, which can be said of not many, perhaps more erudite, books on the subject.

M. L. DANTWALA

Farm Surpluses : U.S. Burden or World Asset ?, Murray R. Benedict and Elizabeth K. Bauer, Division of Agricultural Sciences, University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A., 1960. Pp. 232. \$ 3.50.

The book is addressed primarily to the U.S. public and explains very lucidly, the nature of the problem of the U.S. farm surpluses and also the nature of the various solutions suggested. The authors observe in their Foreword : "The people of the United States are understandably concerned about the persistent and seemingly insoluble problem of heavy excess stocks of U.S. farm products in a world that is pictured as suffering from chronic shortages of food. To many, it seems obvious that both of these problems could be solved by an enlightened policy of sharing our abundance with the needy people of other countries; or alternatively, that we should cease to produce more farm product than can be used at home or exported in normal ways." The book is designed to assemble the main facts relating to this problem together with a clear statement of the laws and policies pertaining to it. After stating in an introductory chapter, what they call the 'Paradox of U.S. surpluses and World Deficits' the authors give in two subsequent chapters, a factual account of the U.S. exports of farm products during the earlier period upto World War II and during the War and after. The account includes normal exports as well as exports through special programmes. In Chapter Four, there is a full account of the current (1960) stocks of farm products, commodity-wise. In three subsequent chapters are explained and discussed the several programmes and policies designed to resolve the problem. In a final chapter the authors have brought together the several issues of policy. They are discussed under major headings such as : Production Adjustment, The Role of Tariff Reductions and Free Trade, Export of Capital, Disaster Relief, and the Problem of Relations with other Exporting Nations. The discussion demonstrates how complicated a process it is even to share an abundance. In a final section, the authors indicate certain changes needed in emphasis and procedure of the several programmes. The foremost of their suggestion is that the programme should be authorized and laid out on a longer-term basis. Altogether, it is an extremely balanced and lucid statement of the problem. Though it is addressed primarily to the U.S. reader, there is no need to emphasize its interest to the Indian reader.

V. M. DANDEKAR

Land and Labour in India, Daniel and Alice Thorner, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1962. Pp. 227. Rs. 16.00.

This is a collection of writings on India by Thorners during nearly a decade of their stay in this country. There are in all 15 articles grouped under three