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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES

Economics and Management in Agriculture, Warren H. Vincent, Editor.
Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1962. Pp. xvii, 452. \$8.50.

This textbook is different. In the words of the editor it is "intended as a comprehensive undergraduate text in agricultural economics". Readers will agree that it is comprehensive. It covers all aspects of importance to agriculture, but does not attempt to present the last word on any one of them.

The book is not outstanding for its factual material. Very few readers will find anything startlingly new in its pages. But the content is "up to date" and many will recognize the more recent writings of some of the authors coming to the fore.

A team of twelve authors wrote the book, but no one chapter is attributed to any one author. The reason for this is that Editor Vincent has taken liberties with the text to ensure some continuity of style and presentation. Despite the editor's apology in the Preface there are few distinct breaks in continuity, and, except in one notable instance, the changes in style are not easily noticed. The editor would appear to have done a most satisfactory job.

The thing which distinguishes the text is the approach which has been adopted. Everything covered in the text appears to have been approached from an expositional viewpoint. The result is that, although the content is diverse in nature, it has a "wholeness" or "completeness" about it which is lacking in so many texts and courses. Also this approach provides an element of motivation for the student. The motivation for learning may come from a great many sources; novelty value, academic interest, a desire to understand, but all too frequently (when economics is part of a general course) from the necessity to pass examinations. Here, the most academic aspect is shown to be important because it relates to management in agriculture. Everything is of practical importance.

Instead of taking an historical approach, or beginning with the elements of macro-economic theory, agriculture is approached from the viewpoint of the economic functions of producers, consumers, distributors, and policy makers in agriculture. Economics is presented as a social science with a contribution to make to management. Management is seen as something broader than economics, calling on many sciences and arts to fulfil its functions. As economics is a "science of choice" it is seen to be closely related to the decision making aspects of management. Management is necessary because of changes and resulting uncertainty. The sources of uncertainty confronting a manager are listed as (i) production or yield conditions, (ii) market conditions, (iii) technology, (iv) preferences of individuals and groups, and (v) economic or social institutions.

The book is divided into five parts. Each part has a number of chapters. Part I is called "Economic Analysis and Management in Agriculture", and contains two chapters, the first of which outlines the scope of the book. The second chapter, "The Role and Functions of Management", deals with uncertainty, problem perception, observation and the problems managers face concerning decision and action.

Part II is called "Production and Consumption Decisions in the Firm and Household." The first three chapters deal with the *factor-product*, *factor-factor* and *product-product* problems of the firm. The fourth chapter in this section covers "Cost Relationships in Production". The basic relationships are described carefully, demonstrated geometrically, and the basic algebra is fully developed to provide a basis for more detailed application in the future. The explanation is not confused with a lot of examples, but generalized examples are used where this aids elucidation.

Further chapters deal with the firm and the supply function, changes in aggregate supply response, consumer behaviour, and explain elasticity of demand and its implications in a brief form.

Part III is entitled "Principles of Price Determination". The opening chapter includes a discussion of the role of prices, price determination under various kinds of competition, discriminatory pricing and controlled distribution. Other chapters discuss prices over time, the pricing policies of non-farm firms, wage rates and land price determination. A chapter discussing comparative advantage, principles of trade, and trade barriers concludes the section. This section contains a large amount of material in a condensed space without loss of clarity, but in general there is a tendency toward over-simplification as compared with the other sections.

Part IV deals with "Institutions Affecting Agriculture", particularly the effects on decision making, and marketing. These aspects are discussed almost entirely as they apply to the American scene, but in many instances the discussion is valid for similar Australian institutions. One chapter in this section covers 26 pages without any major subheadings or divisions. It is in marked contrast to the rest of the book which is well, but not unnecessarily, subdivided. Such subdivision does facilitate easier reading, and learning.

Part V, the final section, deals with "Political-Economic Problems of Agriculture". It discusses the role of public decisions and some elements of the governmental process, and deals with domestic and world agriculture and the interaction between the two. The changes occurring in American agriculture and their possible solutions are discussed in a chapter on policy alternatives, and some of the features of depressed areas are dealt with in the last chapter. This last chapter seems out of place, or at least over-emphasized. However to people with a closer knowledge of the United States farming scene this may not seem so.

The worst chapter in the book is the one entitled "The Values Relating to Agriculture". Undoubtedly the values held relating to agriculture are of considerable importance, and a discussion of these values is important to this presentation. However it should be possible to discuss these values with some objectivity. In fact the emotional overtones expressed in this chapter are strangely incongruous when compared with the general tone of the book, even though one might agree fully, or in part, with its content. For example "The decay of the old world order . . . and the rising threat of international communism has in a sense thrust a new value upon us", and "Perhaps of more importance over the long pull, in the struggle between communism and the free world, is the increasing realization that our agricultural policies must also contribute by freeing national resources for other uses."; and "Indeed, we now live in an atomic age in which the hydrogen bomb, like the sword of Damocles, hangs ever ready to bring down the final curtain on all civilization."

Apart from the text and the usual preamble there are several other features. The first is a brief "who's-who" entitled "Introducing the Team", which lists the academic qualifications, distinctions, and professional history of each of the twelve co-authors. One's first impression is that this is either a psychological restraint to reviewers, or a further manifestation of the magnificent obsession that "it pays (everyone) to advertise". A closer insight suggests that it is possibly a sop from Editor Vincent to the authors who have, in the interests of uniformity, been robbed of their individual contributions. It is safe to say that such a detailed list of these qualifications adds nothing to the book.

Secondly there is, at the end of each chapter, a set of "Review Questions". Whether these are to make this a do-it-yourself text or for the benefit of teachers is not explained. The questions are well phrased and in most cases highlight the major points in the respective chapters. A third feature of note is a better than usual "Index". This covers seventeen pages and is thorough and much more complete than those frequently found in text books.

The fourth feature is clear presentation of most chapters. This is apart from the general presentation of the material. Each chapter is divided into self-contained sections. Each section has its points separated and numbered. Yet there is no loss of continuity nor inaccurate emphasis. In addition many chapters have a summary or conclusion which leaves no doubt as to where emphasis lies.

Typographically, the print is of a good size, a feature of American as opposed to British texts, but there are several errors. These are most unfortunate when they appear in the algebraic elaboration of principles, as these are then traps for many students. As well as errors of this type on pages 45 and 57. There is a misprint in the diagram on page 20.

Particularly in view of the expositional approach the text suggests itself as a very useful one. But one must consider its applicability to an audience outside of the United States. From this viewpoint the reviewer considers that it will be no more restricted in its application than most other American texts. It is a good deal ahead of many of them, but the chapters discussing institutions and political-economic problems of agriculture are fairly specific to the United States and so give this text a disadvantage not shared by less comprehensive texts.

This textbook is refreshingly different, and important not only for its content but also for its contribution to exposition in agricultural economics.

G. F. DONALDSON

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Farm Business Management: The Decision Making Process, Emery N. Castle and Manning M. Becker. New York ; The Macmillan Company, 1962. Pp. xviii, 423, \$6.

The sub-title to this book is not redundant. It emphasizes that the more simple tools of farm management analysis, which are described, are carefully related to the farm manager's problem of making decisions.

The authors intend this book to serve as a text for the beginning student in farm management. They are to be congratulated on their practical and single-minded approach to fulfilling this intention.

It is refreshing to find an American text in this field which is reasonably concise and straight forward in expression, of good presentation and with the material logically ordered. Further, this book by virtue of its concentration on general principles, is not over specifically related to the local scene. (The authors teach at Oregon State University.)

The book is divided into five parts. In the introduction the first chapter discusses the decision making process and includes general reference to the steps that are involved, criteria for classifying decision situations and types of problems faced by farm managers. Chapter Two discusses farming as an occupation in the United States.

Part Two is devoted to the simple tools of decision making. Chapter Three presents some of the most important economic concepts while Chapters Four to Six describe the principles of keeping and analysing farm records including budgeting and the derivation of "efficiency factors". The authors believe that calculation of efficiency factors does not diagnose the specific ills of a farm business but that the clues given by this procedure make the effort worthwhile. Linear programming is mentioned in sufficient detail to give the reader some idea of the problems that can be tackled with it. The final chapter in this Part, "Risk and Uncertainty in Farming" presents Knight's classification of knowledge situations and briefly discusses the counter measures to risk and uncertainty that can be used by farmers and society.

Part Three deals with the acquisition and organization of the factors of production. Chapters 9, 10 and 11 treat respectively the acquisition of capital in general, the special problems in acquiring land and the question of farm size. Chapter 12 discusses the selection and combination of enterprises starting with the principle of comparative advantage, passing to intra-farm enterprise relationships, the question of diversification or specialization, the role of risk and uncertainty and concluding with a suggested procedure for combining enterprises.

The fourth part examines management problems associated with particular enterprises and factors of production. The emphasis is continually on the principles involved in budgeting costs and returns.

Finally Chapter 20, or Part Five, briefly reviews the problem of farmer adjustment to a changing world.

There is an appendix, giving tables for four of the more common formulas used in compounding and discounting, and a satisfactory index. There is only one student exercise (p. 60) but there are numerous worked examples in the text.

This book is recommended for consideration as a text for use with University first courses in Farm Management. It should also be of value to senior students at Agricultural Colleges and extension officers who wish to supplement the information gained at in-service training schools in farm management.

J. G. BIRD

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The Simple Fleece, Alan Barnard, Editor—Melbourne University Press. Cloth Bound, pp. 640, 63s.

The editor, Alan Barnard, has brought together the work of many different specialists to produce this book about the Australian Wool Industry. In the preface he indicates that he regards the book as “. . . a *collection* of papers, . . . linked by the central theme of the wool industry but (which) are subservient to no central purpose other than the communication of knowledge.” Barnard then adds “This is neither textbook nor encyclopaedia. Its purpose . . . is to stimulate thought and create an added awareness of the essential unity of knowledge and the interdependence of its branches.”

From this one gets the impression that this book is designed principally for the academic and is perhaps, too deep and involved for general-interest reading. Upon reading the book one finds much interesting discussion and elucidation throughout, and while some of the sections may be highly technical they are discussed in a manner that does not preclude the general reader from following the basic theme. Thus, while the reviewer considers this book to be designed principally for the academic it is not intended to discourage anyone reading for general interest alone.

In its 640 pages the book covers numerous aspects of the wool industry. The forty chapters are aggregated into eight parts and as one would expect this grouping proved to be a problem. This is, of course, unavoidable when combining the works of so many different people, however, Barnard seems to have done the job quite well. There appears to be a logical development throughout with an occasional diversion and this is undoubtedly all that Barnard intended to do.

The fact that the book consists of contributions from almost forty different specialists not only provides the reader with a broad coverage of the wool industry but also offers some depth of discussion. Inevitably this has led to some important aspects being omitted from discussion. On the other hand, there is also a certain amount of overlapping which stresses the importance of interrelationships between disciplines.

The reviewer considers that this book will be of most use to research workers concerned directly or indirectly with the wool industry. Being written principally by these people it provides an excellent means for the communication of ideas between disciplines. Each individual should be able to obtain a better appreciation of the views of the others and the problems they are attempting to solve. It should encourage them to reorientate their thinking and research in such a manner as to make the most use of their efforts. This type of inter-disciplinary communication is important to ensure that research is being carried out in the fields generally considered to be the most essential. Probably most important is the communication between the natural and social sciences that this book provides. For that reason it is strongly recommended to those doing, or contemplating doing, any research in the wool industry.

In view of the large volume of recent research findings discussed it is considered that *The Simple Fleece* provides worthwhile reading for those who directly depend on the wool industry as a source of income, i.e., the graziers. Much of the technical discussion should be helpful to graziers by assisting them to improve their management practices. Not only is there a considerable range of technical information but it is also up to date in all but the

very recent findings. Thus, the book can be recommended to graziers for a more important reason than simply to provide interesting reading about their industry.

No volume such as this could be considered complete without a reasonable historical coverage. There is by no means a complete coverage, although it does offer to the reader an outline of the development of the wool industry. Some chapters deal almost entirely with historical aspects while others mention a few, either as an introduction, or as part of the general discussion. Parts IV and V have a lot of historical content and they vividly describe the difficulties and hardships faced by our forefathers in establishing the wool industry. Part VII "The Politics of Wool" deals with some of the early political developments concerning the wool industry. Much of the discussion in this part concerns the times when the wool industry started to gain recognition and when it was able to exert its influence in politics.

Having already referred to some of the particular parts of the book a brief review of the subject matter is now presented.

Part I: The Fibre

1. WHY WOOL IS GROWN, *N. F. Roberts.*
2. THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL CLIP, *W. R. Lang.*
3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE WOOL FIBRE, *G. E. Rogers.*

The particular characteristics of the wool fibre which make it suitable for the textile process are mentioned along with characteristics of other fibres. The types of fibres produced in Australia are described together with a discussion on wool classing and the associated difficulties involved in an objective classification.

Part II: The Sheep

4. PRODUCTION PER HEAD, *Helen Newton Turner.*
5. GENETICS AND THE WOOL INDUSTRY, *Helen Newton Turner.*
6. REPRODUCTION IN SHEEP, *R. H. Watson.*
7. THE ECOLOGY OF SHEEP IN AUSTRALIA, *G. R. Moule.*
8. ADAPTATION OF MERINOS TO THE ARID TROPICS, *W. V. Macfarlane.*
9. NUTRITION OF WOOL-PRODUCING SHEEP, *Ian W. McDonald.*
10. TRACE ELEMENTS AND THE NUTRITION OF SHEEP, *E. J. Underwood.*
11. THE EFFICIENCY OF CONVERSION OF FEED INTO WOOL, *K. A. Ferguson.*

This part deals with the development of the Australian Merino and its attributes making it suitable for wool production in the Australian environment. Factors affecting wool production from both the sheep and the vegetation are brought up. These factors include genetics and the role of stud breeding, reproduction, nutrition together with pasture production, the role of trace elements in plant and animal production, and the relationship between feed intake and fleece production.

Part III: The Land and Its Uses

12. REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN CLIMATE AND HERBAGE PRODUCTION, *R. J. Williams.*
13. EFFECTS OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY ON AUSTRALIAN VEGETATION, *R. M. Moore.*
14. THE REDUCTION OF ACRES PER BALE, *W. M. Willoughby.*
15. THE NUTRITION OF PASTURE PLANTS, *K. D. McLachlan.*
16. IRRIGATED PASTURES, *L. F. Myers.*

17. COMPETITORS WITH SHEEP: MAMMAL AND BIRD PESTS OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY, *B. V. Fennessy*.
18. RABBITS, THE LAW, AND THE CONSTITUTION, *G. Sawyer*.
19. CATCHMENT EROSION, *J. S. Turner*.
20. DROUGHT, *M. C. Franklin*.

The types of land and vegetation used for woolgrowing are outlined, and the effect of the introduction of sheep on the vegetation is discussed. In certain circumstances the natural productivity of the land has been improved by methods such as pasture improvement, and the control of rabbits and prickly pear. In other cases it has been reduced by overgrazing which destroyed the natural vegetation. Catchment erosion is discussed and probably serves the reader best as an example of how natural resources have been exploited when under leasehold conditions and when the grazing potential is not properly understood. This is probably similar to the exploitation of the western division, as discussed in Part V. The legal aspects of rabbit control are discussed mainly as an example of the difficulties involved in any overall pest and disease control scheme.

Part IV: Production and Finance

21. DISTRIBUTION OF THE SHEEP POPULATION: PRELIMINARY STATISTICAL PICTURE, 1860-1957, *N. G. Butlin*.
22. THE STRUCTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHEEP INDUSTRY, *D. H. McKay and A. Ward*.
23. THE GROWTH OF RURAL CAPITAL, 1860-1890, *N. G. Butlin*.
24. THE ECONOMICS OF PASTURE IMPROVEMENT, *F. H. Gruen*.
25. FODDER CONSERVATION AND STOCKING RATES: ECONOMIC ASPECTS, *A. G. Lloyd*.
26. PASTORAL FINANCE AND CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, 1860-1960, *N. G. Butlin and A. Barnard*.
27. RURAL CREDIT AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY, *H. P. Schapper*.

Much of this part deals with the historical development of the wool industry with particular reference to capital accumulation. Equally important, perhaps, are the chapters on the economics of pasture improvement and fodder conservation. The other aspect dealt with in this part is finance, its sources, its uses, and the present situation concerning credit and associated policies.

Part V: Regional Studies

28. THE RIVERINA AND ITS PASTORAL INDUSTRY, 1860-1869, *O. B. Williams*.
29. COMPANIES AND SQUATTING IN THE WESTERN DIVISION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1896-1905, *N. Cain*.
30. SHEEP-RAISING IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA: A HISTORICAL REVIEW, *F. H. Bauer*.

This study of three regions reveals some of the problems of early settlement, the difficulties facing the pioneers and the mistakes they made. It is indeed sobering, for those who consider times to be tough now, to read of the pioneering days and to see what conditions on the land were like then. The problems due to the unreliable Australian climate are brought out vividly as the impact of "the drought" is described. Problems arose from over-estimation of the western country; large financial losses were incurred and the future potential of this country was greatly reduced

by exploitative grazing in the early years of settlement. The factors hindering expansion of the sheep industry to northern Australia are described in the final chapter.

Part VI: Wool Marketing

31. A CENTURY AND A HALF OF WOOL MARKETING, *A. Barnard.*
32. THE CASE FOR THE PRESENT MARKETING SYSTEM, *F. H. Gruen.*
33. STABILIZATION OF WOOL PRICES, *M. Weisser.*
34. THOUGHTS ABOUT A CENTRAL MARKETING AUTHORITY FOR WOOL, *R. Boyer.*
35. COMPETITION BETWEEN FIBRES: TECHNOLOGICAL, *M. Lipson.*
36. COMPETITION BETWEEN FIBRES: ECONOMIC, *G. O. Gutman and Margaret Fead.*

This Part deals with many aspects concerning the present "hot potato" of wool marketing. Those concerned with the present and various alternative suggestions for wool marketing would be well advised to spend some time digesting these six chapters. This is, indeed, the most controversial issue presented in the book. The arguments for the present system and possible alternatives are well and thoroughly presented. The two chapters on competition between the fibres would no doubt raise the eyebrows of some, especially the statement ". . . on any plausible assumption one cannot assert with certainty that the future of wool is assured". (P. 573.)

Part VII: The Politics of Wool (Unfortunately omitted from the table of contents)

37. PASTORALISTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1870-1890, *A. W. Martin.*
38. GRAZIERS IN POLITICS, 1917-1929, *B. D. Graham.*
39. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY, *R. Gollan.*

This deals with the influence graziers have been able to exert in politics, the influence being exerted by direct representation and later by various pressure groups including the Country Party. There is also mention of unions and arbitration with relation to the pastoral industry.

Part VIII: Epilogue

40. WOOL IN THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY, 1946-1958, *L. J. Hume.*

This chapter is only an epilogue in an indirect way and certainly does not provide a summary or a recapitulation of the rest of the work. It is merely a discussion of the importance of the wool industry in the Australian economy. Indeed, a summary would be a difficult task and whether it is desired or not really depends on the particular reader.

Finally, the index deserves special mention in view of its thoroughness. It by no means covers all possible subjects but in its ten double-column pages it provides a quick reference which could at times be very helpful.

P. F. BYRNE

Department of Agriculture, Sydney

The Agricultural Commodity Programs: Two Decades of Experience, Murray R. Benedict and Oscar C. Stine. New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1956. Ps. xlii, 510, \$5.00

This is the third volume of a series written mainly by Murray R. Benedict and published by the Twentieth Century Fund, dealing with the United States Government policies relating to agriculture. The first volume was a comprehensive description of United States farm policies entitled *Farm Policies of the United States, 1790 to 1950*. The second work was entitled *Can We Solve the Farm Problem?* and was mainly a report on the agricultural programmes and institutions established in the United States during the thirties. The present volume consists of several detailed case histories of the government programmes for particular commodities, published to augment the general survey presented previously.

The text outlines the specific commodity programmes for tobacco, cotton, wheat, rye, rice, fruits and vegetables, coarse grains and livestock, wool, oilseed crops, butter, cheese, poultry and eggs, milk, potatoes and sugar. The problems and policies of production and marketing are outlined, with reference to price supports, supplemental payments, acreage allotments, soil conservation, tariffs and import quotas, seasonal effects, war and depression, promotion and advertising and all the other facets of farm commodity programmes. The discussion assumes some knowledge of the many institutional arrangements set up to facilitate the various programmes. These have been outlined fully in the previous volume. By omitting this detail from the present discussion a good deal of repetition has been avoided in this commodity—by-commodity outline.

The farm commodity programmes, it is suggested, spring from three quite different sets of conditions. Firstly, a period of depression with a heavy surplus of produce, very low prices and acute distress in farm areas; secondly, a period of war when prices and production were high and when the principal emphasis was on increased production rather than on curtailment; and thirdly, a post-war period of general prosperity and relatively high prices when production was beginning to outrun consumption, and the need for extensive readjustment in the kinds and amounts of production was beginning to become apparent.

The programmes for different commodities have often employed several different devices. The devices used fall roughly into six categories. These are: "(1) attempts to create an improved system of marketing based on producer-controlled co-operative marketing agencies; (2) holding operations designed to stabilize the flow of non-perishables on to the market; (3) efforts to cut back and hold down farm production with a view to bringing supplies into better adjustment with demand; (4) measures designed to transfer buying power from consumers or the Treasury to the farm groups; (5) marketing agreements intended to stabilize the industry and strengthen prices; and (6) efforts to hold prices up to the high levels achieved during the war and post-war years by means of government loans and purchases". The programmes for some commodities, being a combination of several of these measures, are enormously complex.

Overall these case histories provide a comprehensive and searching study of actual experience in the United States. In this regard they form a record of interest to students, policy forming officials and others, and should be a

helpful background in formulating farm programmes which will make a positive contribution to the general welfare of all people within the United States economy.

In this complex of farm programmes in the United States there is little of *direct* relevance to Australia. But in broader terms Australian agriculture has experienced a similar set of conditions and is regarded with a similar set of values to the agriculture of the United States. Therefore, in so far as Australian agriculture does resemble that of the United States, this study does suggest some possible implications for similar policies applied here.

The three volumes financed by the Twentieth Century Fund make up a very thorough record of the structure and impact of United States agricultural programmes, which should provide valuable guidance to both individuals and groups who are interested in either studying or influencing farm policy.

G. F. DONALDSON

Department of Agriculture, Wagga Wagga

Economic Development in Perspective, John Kenneth Galbraith. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962, pp. 76. 28s. 3d. (Aust.).

Galbraith's objective in this small book is to reduce the vast literature and enthusiastic discussion on economic development to central principles. He admires the vigour with which parts of the problem of economic development have been and are being discussed but urges occasional pauses to consider how the parts fit into a complete picture. More specifically, he questions the tendency to oversimplify the problems confronting the under-developed countries, to see the world as simply divided between developed and undeveloped countries and to see capital and technical knowledge as the ingredients of progress.

Galbraith appeals for a more basic approach, exhorting each country to consider its present position along the development line, its environment for development, political maturity, efficiency of administration, educational standards and the degree of social justice experienced by all sections of the community. He makes a special plea for greater recognition of the role of education in development, emphasizing particularly that the pattern of investment in education in the "new" countries should not be copied directly from advanced countries but adjusted according to national requirements.

The five lectures on which the book is based were delivered in India in 1961. It is gratifying, but not surprising, that the response to the lectures was such as to encourage the author to arrange for their publication.

G. C. MCFARLANE

Department of Agriculture, Sydney

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Sir John Winnifrith. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1962, pp. 271, 30s. (Stg.).

It is a well-known tenet that a good public servant endeavours to the utmost of his ability to execute a given government policy, even if he disagrees with it, and that he doesn't criticize this policy in public. This may or may not be a good thing for a democratic society; it is certainly not a good thing from the reader's point of view when a book concerned with government policy is written by a person who is still in the employ of a government department. For it leads to purely descriptive writing.

instead of critical analysis. However, it would be unfair to criticize the author of this book (who has been Permanent Secretary to the Ministry since 1959) on this score because the book does not really set out to be anything but descriptive. It is number eleven in the New Whitehall Series, prepared under the auspices of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, the purpose of the series being "to provide authoritative descriptions of the present work of the major Departments of Central Government". In this aim the book has certainly succeeded.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part gives a broad outline of the Ministry's work at the present time and an account of its historical development. The second part is the major portion of the book and describes the Ministry's work in detail. The procedure of the Annual Price Review, at which representatives of the government and the farmers' unions have consultations (the author is at pains to point out that they are not negotiations) on the level of price guarantees and production grants for the ensuing period, is fully described. So too is the mechanism of the deficiency payment system which has allowed the government to combine support for agriculture with the benefits of "free" competition. The advisory services, research, education, marketing, the special problem of horticulture, improvement schemes such as the Small Farmer Scheme are all fully dealt with. There are separate chapters on "Food" and "Fisheries", the Ministry being responsible for many of the functions that were the province of the former Ministry of Food, e.g., the Australian Meat Agreement, maintenance of standards of food hygiene, etc., and also for the fishing industry.

The final part of the book describes the headquarters, regional and district organization of the Ministry and the way these have been changed in the light of experience and in view of the movement from a wartime to a peace-time economy.

The book should prove a useful reference to the person interested in administration and perhaps looking for possible alternative ways of organizing the channels of communication and control of a government department dealing with such a diffuse industry as agriculture. For the person interested in a *critical* review of the part played by the Ministry in British Agriculture and of the policies that it administers, however, this is not the place to seek it.

G. J. TYLER

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An Introduction to Sampling Theory with Applications to Agriculture,
M. R. Sampford. Edinburgh and London; Oliver and Boyd. Pp. xiv,
292, 30s. (Stg.)

Often the mathematical-statistician confuses the research worker with his terminology and with his mathematical symbolism. The research worker sees the realm of statistical methods as a complexity to which only the mathematically-minded or trained hold the solution. This is particularly so of those research workers from the biological and social sciences where formal training in mathematics is limited.

The work of Dr. M. R. Sampford from the University of Aberdeen breaks down this barrier. He clearly defines the important statistical concepts and then logically introduces the wide facets of sampling. He provides numerous examples to illustrate his points. Each chapter contains appropriate references for more detailed study. There are exercises at the end of each chapter, and one section gives the answers to these exercises.

This text-book satisfies a demand in the work of field experimentation. Other writers have been concerned with the design and analytic sides, whereas Dr. Sampford has clearly seen that between the two is the very important problem of sampling. Despite his reduced mathematical treatment, Dr. Sampford is able to progress to quite comprehensive sampling procedures.

Dr. Sampford has shown that the problem of sampling is vital. To date the whole subject appears to have been treated with disrespect by the research worker. Because of Dr. Sampford's non-mathematical approach it will mean his message will reach a wider audience, and this will undoubtedly benefit the development of research generally. It is hoped Dr. Sampford will extend his approach to statistical design and analyses of experimental data in the near future.

C. H. GRAY

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Visions and Profits, Alan Barnard. Melbourne: University Press on behalf of the Australian National University, 1961. Pp. xvii, 234, 45s. 0d.

In Macquarie-place, Sydney, there is a statue erected by public subscription to the memory of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, one of the outstanding men in Sydney's commercial life during the mid and late 19th century. In this book, which is sub-titled "Studies in the Business Career of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort", Dr. Barnard has made an impressive and readable study of the activities undertaken by Mort during the forty-year period from his arrival in Sydney in 1838, at the age of 21 years, until his death in 1878.

The first chapter, in addition to explaining why the public subscribed to the memorial statue, traces the events leading up to his emigration from Manchester in 1837. The major portion of the book, seven chapters, then deals with the many facets of his career while the final chapter summarises what has happened to those of his companies still existing at the time of his death and briefly analyses the motives underlying many of his decisions. The book is well documented and, as well as the usual index, includes two appendices, the first a chronological summary of his career and the other biographical notes of persons who had dealings with him or were in one way or another connected with his career.

Mort's activities as an auctioneer and broker, his participation in the Sydney wool market and the means by which he had acquired a modest fortune by the early 1850's are dealt with fully. Mort introduced the idea of "special" wool auctions and became the leading figure in the local wool trade by the end of the 1840's. Through his efforts he laid the foundations for a strong and independent local market. He also expanded his business by specializing in the auctioning of pastoral properties and stock and also in the financing of pastoral operations as well as becoming a wool consigning agent.

Railway promotion became another of his activities—he speculated in various promotions, particularly the Sydney Railway Company, but with largely unrewarding results. He also became involved in the mining boom following the discovery of gold at Bathurst and helped to promote gold, copper, shale and coal mining companies but generally did not receive the returns he expected from his investments.

Mort also became well known through the achievements of his property at Bodalla on the South Coast. Why he purchased this land and how it was in time transformed into a beautiful country estate and profitable dairy-farming enterprise are covered in detail by the author. However, this property was actually over-capitalized and was another of his investments which failed to produce for him a reasonable return on capital even in the fairly long run.

In 1854, Mort proceeded with the erection at Balmain of what was to become his well known dry dock and engineering company. The fluctuating fortunes of this large scale enterprise are dealt with at length by Dr. Barnard; on the whole it was successful until after World War II when conditions had so altered that the company was forced into voluntary liquidation in 1958. It met an immediate need when it was established but was too lavish and elaborate for Mort to receive a "rational" return on capital for decades.

In the second half of the 1860's, wool prices fell very sharply—pastoral operations, in which Mort was deeply involved, were seriously affected and profits declined. To protect his investments Mort turned toward food refrigeration as with it he hoped to "hold up the value of his pastoral securities, bolster wool prices, secure new trade for the wool business, provide manufacturing orders for the dry dock and establish new outlets for dairy products".

Mort held high hopes for refrigeration; he invested heavily and actively participated in the work carried out by E. D. Nicolle, a French engineer. Mort's participation began in 1866 but nine years were to pass before he thought the vital problems had been solved and that an export trade was there for the taking. Disappointment after disappointment had been met and overcome but this moment of success was not to be, for another two years elapsed before he could attempt to ship frozen meat to England. But the freezing machinery broke down when all was ready and the chartered ship sailed without the precious frozen cargo—eleven long years and a fortune Mort spent on refrigeration experiments. He died the following year, 1878, before he could realize his dream.

The system perfected by Mort and Nicolle was never used for ship refrigeration but despite this, both must be rated high among the pioneers of refrigerating techniques.

It is probably not too well known that Mort also encouraged or promoted many different types of colonial agriculture, including the growing of sugar-cane, maize, cotton and ramie, the running of alpacas as a source of wool and the cultivation of silk-worms. Most of these ventures, however, were not successful. He also arranged for the first supply of refrigerated country milk to Sydney as well as taking a leading part in many of the colony's civic and cultural activities. Incidentally, he was connected with the formation of the A.M.P. Society whose towering head office now stands upon the site formerly occupied by his impressive wool store at Circular Quay.

Mort's was a success story and yet at the same time it was one in which serious errors of judgment were displayed. His ill-fated adventures with refrigeration and to a lesser extent with the railways and some of his mining activities contrast sharply with his successes, such as his auctioneering and wool selling business.

Dr. Barnard points out that "Mort's record as a businessman, despite his accumulation of wealth was neither singular nor exceptionally impressive". In the sixties and seventies, he was occasionally brilliant, occasionally masterful but never reliable in his management functions. And yet he had not always shown managerial weaknesses as witness his business activities in the forties and fifties. Why the changes took place and the resultant effects are explained by the author.

While his overall record as a business man was neither "singular nor exceptionally impressive" he was by no means a bad businessman. However, his managerial characteristics do suggest in part that his success was due less to the vigorous exploitation of innovations than to the introduction of ideas which became profitable only by the subsequent growth of the economy.

Although each of his activities were somehow linked and served or were to serve, in one way or another, as a means of supporting his other investments there was more to his actions than just the seeking after profits. Once he had gained a modest fortune in the early fifties he was not greatly concerned with the rate of return on his capital—he was prepared to incur heavy expense to develop an idea, to support or promote a pioneer venture realizing that a full reward might not be obtained for many years.

The ability to think in grand terms, the boldness of his visions, his prophetic ideas and the determination to persevere in his efforts to bring them to pass, despite any immediate sacrifices it meant on his part, were attributes which endeared him to the citizens of his time and provided a standard by which his individuality could be measured.

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The State and the Farmer, Peter Self and Herbert J. Storing. London: George Allen and Unwin 1962. Pp. 251. 30s. 0d. (Stg.)

Self and Storing have confined their attention in this book to the nature of the political relationship between the state and the farmer. Their contribution is therefore complementary to the work of other writers such as Edith Whetham, Anne Martin, G. R. Allen and H. T. Williams who have concerned themselves more with economic theory and policy.

Apart from an observation that individual quotas in milk marketing would tend to protect the weaker producers but would restrict those who could profitably expand their output at rather lower prices, Self and Storing have scarcely touched on the economic aspects of the agricultural policies developed by the "partnership" of farmers and government. This approach was no doubt intentional as the authors have obviously given a good deal of thought to the scope of their book. While such perspicacity is to be applauded, the title of the book could reasonably cause readers to expect economic theory to intrude rather more in some chapters. Consideration of the price policies of marketing boards, for example, would have enriched the chapter on "Marketing Monopolies".

Even as a contribution in the field of political science the book is by no means as broadly based or as theoretical as implied by the title; it relates only to Britain and is concerned far more with details of administrative and bargaining processes than with philosophical aspects of the relationship between the state and the farmer. The book is very useful, however, for its thorough description of the political evolution, development and current position of the major interest groups in U.K. agriculture—landowners, tenants, owner-operators and farm workers.

Much of the book is concerned with the efforts of farmers' organizations (especially the National Farmers' Union) to maintain equitable farm prices and incomes and with the spirit in which negotiations between N.F.U. leaders and the Minister of Agriculture have taken place. After tracing the gradual tendency for the N.F.U. and the Government to move closer together in the post-war years, to work more in partnership than as adversaries, the authors note with satisfaction that both parties now seem to favour abandonment of this close consultative relationship.

An interesting, though not highlighted, aspect of *The State and the Farmer* is that it makes brief reference to historical changes in the significance of agriculture in the British economy. British agricultural production reached its highest level in the 1870's when it was still meeting most of the food requirements of a growing urban population. After the 1870's overseas competition was noticed, the first dent being made by imports of cheap grain from North America and the second by refrigerated meat and dairy products from Argentina and Australasia.

The authors point out that this period also marked the start of a decline in the political influence of British Agriculture, the State's interest in the position of farmers declining as the benefits of free trade emerged. Apart from brief state intervention to provide guaranteed prices for cereals during World War I and some assistance during the depression this situation continued until the outbreak of World War II.

In recent years Labour, Conservative and Liberal parties have all favoured support for agriculture, though to different degrees. The current feeling of the three parties, however, is that the effect of state aid should not be simply to prop up inefficient agriculture but should aim to promote efficiency.

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