

for doing next to nothing about it. (It is whimsical to note that eight years earlier the Permanent Mandates Commission on its part had pointed to the New Zealand administrator's lack of 'psychological insight' in his handling of the Samoan situation!) And Mrs Boyd's record implies that even the post-war Labour Government of Peter Fraser in which Tamasese and other Samoan leaders put so much trust needed the stimulus of an imminent visit to Samoa by a United Nations mission, plus a petition from Samoa, to take the final action which resulted in the constitutional changes of 1947.

Both Mrs Boyd and Mr Wilson are impartial recorders who do their best to justify official acts and policy. In this connection it would have been useful if somewhere in the book an attempt had been made to co-ordinate their chapters and explore in greater depth the basic reasons for the remarkable difficulties which beset New Zealand in the administration of what were, after all, extremely small territories with no racial, minority or other than straightforward problems. Dr Ross's introduction, and his book *New Zealand Aspirations in the Pacific in the Nineteenth Century*, to which the new book is said to be 'in some measure' a sequel, leave little doubt that early New Zealand leaders saw the annexation of Pacific Islands against a background of an effete and dying Polynesian race, Anglo-Saxon superiority, European settlement and economic gain. To what extent did the Cook Islands Act of 1915 and the Samoa Act of 1921 reflect these attitudes? Viewed in retrospect they were remarkable pieces of legislation in that they gave the islanders neither on the one hand the limited satisfaction of full colonial status with its legislative and executive trappings, nor on the other the material benefits which would have flowed from a closer integration with the mainland of New Zealand. It is interesting to meditate on the extent to which the root cause of many of New Zealand's early problems may be found in this early ambivalence and vacillation in organic policy, which were to take the best part of half a century to clarify, rather than merely in the incompetence of administrators. Mrs Boyd's and Mr Wilson's pages abound with the names of men of goodwill. What they sadly lacked were a few simple sign-posts.

But when all is said and done the reader puts down this book with the feeling that New Zealand has won the last battle. In the modest words of Dr Aikman in his chapter on constitutional development, 'New Zealand may be able to feel some satisfaction at the way in which she has guided Western Samoa and the Cook Islands to autonomy'. New Zealand and her former wards would do well to heed his warning that 'independence or self-government is not an end in itself' and is 'but a condition precedent to the economic and social progress that must be the over-all objective in the developing countries of the South Pacific'. In 'rediscovering its role' (this time one hopes its true role) in the South Pacific the part New Zealand should and can play is clear. It is well summarised in both Dr Ross's introduction and in Dr Aikman's final chapter 'The Future'.

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Apia

*Journal de la Société des Océanistes*, XXV, (1969), numéro spécial sur les Missions dans le Pacifique. 458 pp. French price: F90.

THIS is a notable issue of the *Journal de la Société des Océanistes*. It marks the journal's last appearance as an annual (subsequent issues are appear-

ing quarterly and in a stylish new format). More important, it is an issue devoted to a still relatively unexplored field of academic enquiry. But, although making a significant contribution to the topic of missionary work in the Pacific the volume itself is somewhat disappointing. It consists like any (non-special) periodical largely of a collection of bits and pieces, useful in themselves but lacking a connecting theme to sustain interest in the volume as a whole or to stimulate and guide generalisations regarding *les Missions dans le Pacifique*. Nevertheless, the latter criticism is partially offset by two valuable individual pieces of synthesis and comparison: C. D. Rowley on the reasons missions to the Australian Aborigines have been less successful than those to the Melanesians, and Charles Forman on theological education in the Pacific Islands. Other, more specialised, items include A. Capell on the translation of theological terms into Pacific languages, Sione Latukefu on Wesleyan beginnings in Tonga, G. A. Arbuckle on credit unions in Fiji, and a valuable description by Jean Bertolini of documents relating to New Guinea and the Marshall and Gilbert Islands in the general archives of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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