

for Lord Bathurst, though a man of weight, was no innovator and the tenure of Huskisson, the only other notable Secretary, was too short for solid achievement, but with the under-secretaries Goulburn and Hay and with James Stephen, whose influence steadily grew. But, as Father Eddy shows in one of his best chapters, 'Parliament, the Executives and Australia', a good deal was due to the increased influence of public opinion. This is not a new point, of course, but no previous writer has paid such careful attention to the personalities concerned with the imperial legislation of the period relating to Australia. The next chapter pays particular attention to the Press both in England and in Australia, showing how the administration 'took place . . . not only against a background of increased comment, but in a context of quite intense ill-feeling.' After a chapter on the economy, Father Eddy comes to grips with the complex problems of Treasury control and internal administration. The Treasury was undoubtedly making a real attempt to improve the efficiency of administration both in Great Britain and in the colonies, but its efforts were hampered by ignorance of colonial conditions. Moreover the return 'under a cloud' of two successive heads of the Commissariat shows that by no means all the faults were on the side of the colonial governments. One conclusion that emerges from this study is that the customary estimate of Darling does him less than justice. No doubt his autocratic temperament provoked opposition. But he was a conscientious and efficient administrator and 'he thought it unjust that the urgent requirements of expanding colonies should be shelved or rejected because of the passion now being felt at home for retrenchment.' There is nothing particularly new in the chapter on land settlement and on the foundation of new settlements (which Father Eddy calls 'Sub-imperialism in Australia'). In a final chapter, Father Eddy shows how, despite the continuance of transportation, efforts were being made, through religion and education, to lay some sound foundations for a free community. Altogether it is a scholarly work, showing command of a wide variety of sources and, though the subject does not lend itself to smoothly flowing narrative, it is competently written. This reviewer noted one slip. The Rev. L. E. Threlkeld's previous missionary experience was not in New Zealand but in the Society Islands.

W. P. MORRELL

*University of Otago*

*New Zealand Adult Education.* By David O. W. Hall. Michael Joseph, London, 1970. 191 pp. U.K. price: £2.50.

THE AUTHOR of *New Zealand Adult Education* is a well-known historian, and this book turns out to be a history of adult education with chief emphasis on the activities of the Workers Educational Association, the universities and the various Councils of Adult Education set up by the legislation of 1938, 1947 and 1963. The work of agencies such as the Army, Education and Welfare Service, and the 'night classes' provided under the Manual and Technical Regulations of the Education Department, are dealt with less thoroughly.

The earlier chapters of the book add little to the existing work by A. B. Thompson, published in 1945. There is not, unfortunately, a serious attempt to relate the history of the 'movement' (it is difficult to avoid this word) to social and economic change. Had the writer done so the book would have become more than a flattish chronicle. It could have offered, in addition, some exploration of themes. One can, after some reflection, detect what some of these should be: the importation in the very first ships, for example, of the Victorian zeal for making the working class respectable through 'improving' knowledge; or perhaps, the persistent strain of radicalism found in the Mechanics Institutes and later in the Workers Educational Association; or the perennial eclecticism of courses for adults which is only now, very properly, being curbed; or the belief in the moral advantages of voluntary amateur effort in this field over professionalism. The relationship between primary, secondary, and tertiary education is hardly explored at all.

The writer seems aware of the need to relate his material to social change, but resorts to the regrettable expedient of offering an introductory chapter of generalisations on the 'New Zealand Community', thus leaving it to the reader to place the account which follows in this setting. He admits that his 'sketch' of the present-day New Zealand community is 'brief and rather untidy' and one must agree, but he goes on to say that it should be realised that adult education policy was 'certainly a natural growth from this country's society and history'. It is a pity that the author, who certainly has the competence, did not attempt to show how. However, it is interesting to see that the clientele of the W.E.A. was, as in Britain, not predominantly working class, and that this section of the community has on the whole sturdily resisted the nagging of middle-class enthusiasts for further education.

In spite of these unrealised possibilities, this book should be useful reading for those interested in New Zealand social history. There is now a fairly adequate coverage of the history of the major components of the New Zealand education system. *New Zealand Adult Education* is, of course, addressed mainly to those with a professional interest in adult education and as such, it is a sound and useful work. Its chief interest to the social historian is as a source of information. The task of using this information to shed light on the role of education in the development of New Zealand society still remains.

E. P. MALONE

*University of Auckland*

Since this review was written, the death of David Hall has occurred. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and from 1948 to 1968 was Director of University Extension at the University of Otago. From 1938 to 1940 he was, as an associate editor and contributor, involved in the production of a series of historical works commissioned by the government to mark New Zealand's centenary, and was also a contributor to the official histories of the war. He was a member of the State Literary Fund advisory committee. His publications include *Portrait of New Zealand* (1955); *A History of New Zealand Life* (with W. P. Morrell) (1957); and *The Golden Echo: Some Aspects of New Zealand Social History* (1971).

—E.P.M.