

He has, however, shown himself elsewhere to be capable of most exciting exploration in the jungle of Indian economic history.

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Women with a Cause. By W. B. Sutch. Price Milburn for New Zealand University Press, Wellington, 1973 xii, 248 pp. N.Z. price: casebound \$7.00, paperback \$3.90.

THIS is a difficult book for an historian to review. The title, *Women with a Cause*, is an impressive one with a great deal of contemporary significance. However, almost half the book is not about women with a cause but the failure of New Zealand to recognize adequately the need for equal pay and to create the social and economic conditions that would make equality of opportunity possible. The book is clearly directed at New Zealand readers as a general summary of the struggle for female emancipation. It is not a book for the specialist. The historical sections are random, brief and largely dependent on secondary sources. One may well agree with the critical sections but, when they are not long quotes from commissions and reports, they are personal opinions. Nor does the book seem to work as a general introduction to the 'real world' (i.e. in Sutch's terms the world in which women struggle for equality). History and polemic, in this instance, do not blend.

Dr Sutch begins with two short chapters to show that 'femine characteristics' are not universally accepted and immutable but socially determined and that the culture from which New Zealand's European population sprang regarded women as the property of men. He then retraces the history of women — mainly in Britain — from Anglo-Saxon times, through the later Middle Ages, the Tudor and Stuart periods to Mary Wollstonecraft, Caroline Norton, the chartists, Josephine Butler, John Stuart Mill, the socialists and the suffragists. The United States is given a couple of pages, and selected women in Ireland a whole chapter. These historical sections are dissatisfying because they are disconnected, brief and the ideas undeveloped. For instance it is claimed that Mill's writings 'had a shattering effect on those men and women with a higher education' (p. 25), but as almost the only further comment on Mill is that he renounced all rights over the property and freedom of his wife, this contention is left dangling. Likewise the claim that one reason why Eleanor Marx was a feminist was that her father read several languages and his daughters memorized whole pages of Shakespeare and Burns, 'as part of normal family activity', sounds so odd that it needs elucidation. The work here is very largely derivative. (Incidentally, given the well-known unreliability of almost everything Lytton Strachey said must we have him used against poor Queen Victoria on p. 47?).

The sections on women in New Zealand are more useful. Some information on prominent women is collected together and women's organizations are surveyed and assessed in the light of their contribution towards the goal of equality.

The last section of the book is a discussion of two of Dr Sutch's hobby-horses — New Zealand's half-hearted forays into the field of pre-school education

(compared very unfavourably with Sweden and Denmark) and equal pay (in which the 1971 Commission is seen as severely hampered by its terms of reference). Dr Sutch concludes with a programme designed to bring about equal opportunity for women — most of the planks would not only help to achieve this but would enable both sexes to live a fuller and richer life.

Dr Sutch clearly has a cause. I am not sure whether he still holds the view he once held that women are superior to men (cf. p.x and p. 231), but he is dedicated to the creation of an environment where there is equality of opportunity for women and men. A sort of hybrid between Russia and Scandinavia appears to be the model to which he turns.

His book could have done with much more careful editing. For example, Sidney Webb's name was spelled with an 'i' not a 'y'; Mrs Fawcett on p. 37 appears incorrectly as Mrs Fawatt on p. 35; p. 36 accepts Helen Blackburn citing a meeting in 1868 as the first (in Britain) addressed by women whereas Sutch himself refers to earlier meetings on p. 20; John Redmond is Redmand on p. 60; p. 94 the National Agricultural Labourers' Union is incorrectly called the National Union of Agricultural Workers; p. 119 New Zealand becomes prosperous because of 'rising overseas prices for small farms'. Such errors are grist to the critic's mill.

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The Majesty of Colour: A Life of Sir John Thurston. Vol. I. I, the very Bayonet.

By Deryck Scarr. Australian National University Press, Canberra. 1973. xxx, 370 pp. No price stated.

SIR JOHN THURSTON was a very able man and this is a very able book. Dr Scarr's researches have been exhaustive. He has combed the National Archives of Fiji, the Public Record Office, various missionary records (some of them in the Mitchell Library), Thurston family papers and many other private sources. When Dr Scarr's promised second volume appears, there will not remain much to be found out about Thurston. But there will still be room for differences of interpretation. It is claimed in the 'blurb' that Dr Scarr 'came to challenge the accepted views of Thurston as man and politician'. Accepted by whom? By the European planters at the time, no doubt; but this was balanced by the favourable view of the Colonial Office. Two writers of theses, ungenerously referred to by Dr Scarr, also take a favourable view. Dr Scarr's *bête noire*, to judge from a note on p. 346, seems to be the late Professor G. C. Henderson; but as this work of his remains unpublished, it is difficult to regard it as embodying the 'accepted view'. The present reviewer, who has not seen Henderson's manuscript, does not feel that his own judgement of Thurston has so far been substantially altered by Dr Scarr's work, whilst admitting that many facts in it are new to him.

No attempt, however, will be made in this review to follow Dr Scarr through the forest of detail in which he involves his readers. The undergrowth of Fijian politics is bound to be confusing at times and makes it difficult to disentangle Thurston's personal contribution to them. When Dr Scarr comes to the visit of the Goodenough-Layard Commission in 1873, the crucial episode in this volume,