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[Review of the book Educational development in predominantly rural countries, edited by John Derfel Turner (Roma, Lesotho: School of Education, University of Botswana, 1968)]

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BOOK REVIEWS

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PREDOMINANTLY RURAL COUNTRIES

edited by *Professor John Turner*, published by the School of Education, University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. (R1-00).

This volume is devoted to the proceedings of a seminar held at Roma in June, 1968, and in this context "predominantly rural" refers specifically to Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Malawi, countries which, because of their size, lack of major industries and meagre economy face the same problems in educational decision-making and economics.

Much of the material in this collection of papers is devoted to the economics of education in these countries, not mainly from the point of view of professional economists, but from that of administrators and senior officials who, according to Mr. M. V. B. Mangoche in his paper on "The Role of Youth Movements and Voluntary Organizations in Rural Countries" are, in the main, "the men to blame for the wrong decisions which Governments make."

The question of economics in education is approached from different standpoints — primary education, higher education, youth movements, implementing the curriculum in countries where agriculture plays the major role in the economic development; but they all have the central theme that overall development cannot take place independently of educational development, which in its turn is dependent on economic factors. These economic factors are common to many of the smaller countries in Africa, and although it may be said, we hope without appearing conceited, that South Africa does not face the same economic problems as these other countries, even in Bantu education, the papers are of importance to South African observers. The volume should appeal to those interested not only in the economics of education but also in comparative education, and complements Professor Turner's penetrating article elsewhere in this issue on "Some Educational Tensions in Developing Countries".

L.P.

MAPS AND AIR PHOTOGRAPHS

by *G. C. Dickenson.* Arnold (London).

I regard this book with gratitude and satisfaction, for it is so essentially what has long been needed, to help and guide students. When there are some who have been "geographically" trained and others who have not, it is difficult, to turn out, at the end of a course ,a uniformly qualified and capable group. This book simply, interestingly and informatively set out, has a great deal to offer the trained student and the wherewithal to lead the untrained, to work with confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Part I provides an excellent historical backgroup to map-making. The calculations and considerations of individuals such as Eratosthenes, Ptolemy, Mercator, show the progressive efforts to record expanding knowledge of the world. The determination of latitude and longitude led to the development of map projections. This section is skilfully handled and the discussion of the basic properties of distance, direction, area and shape (without the complication of mathematics) offers a refreshing yet convincing account, of the difficulties of accurate map-making, then and now.

Part II is particularly pleasing. It treats of fundamentals such as scale, area, enlarging and reduction, grids, the use of maps in the field, the third dimension (profiles and block diagrams). It makes maps come alive, for students who have before, not been able to interpret the data offered on the printed sheet.

Step by step, the intricacies of contouring and its associated problems and possibilities, are set out in Part III and the chapter on "Features of the Human, Social and Economic Landscape", highlights the geographical relationships and reactions which explain the distribution of people and their mode of living.

Mapping from Air Photography (Part IV) is new and exciting. The characteristics of air photography and the necessarily new methods of interpretation are explained. The physical properties are discussed, clearly, simply and instructively. Lastly comes the great thrill of plotting from aerial photographs, either to supply more detail to existing maps, or to make entirely new maps.

This book contains a wealth of information and the sequence, clarity and exciting interest which it evokes, make it not only, "a guide into the intriguing world of maps" but an essential reference book for mapmaking and interpretation.

C.R.

HUMANIZING HISTORY

Is there a new approach to the teaching of history in our schools? While almost every other subject in the curriculum of South African schools has experienced a revolution in approach and new