

# NATURE

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## PROGRESS TO PARTNERSHIP IN COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE value of the Middle East Supply Centre and its potentialities have recently been discussed in these columns, and the contribution which regionalism might make to the solution of colonial problems in the field of welfare and economics appears to be gaining wider appreciation. Nevertheless, there has recently been disturbing evidence of unilateralism, and absence of forethought or of desire to co-ordinate American policy with that of Great Britain in the area which the Centre covers. The essential point is well made in an article entitled "Caribbean Laboratory" by Mr. J. M. Jones in the February issue of the American periodical *Fortune*. Colonial Powers, Mr. Jones observes, must now accept the increasing and legitimate interest of other nations in the welfare of dependent peoples; Americans must learn that helping other nations is not merely a matter of spending money and giving self-government, but also involves achieving trust and respect, the imparting of cultural standards and traditions, and the patient and self-sacrificing work of colonial servants over a long period of years. That is the basis of collaboration and of constructive criticism. Mr. Jones's review of British colonial policy in the West Indies and of Anglo-American co-operation in the Caribbean leads him to welcome and foreshadow, first the gradual extension of responsibility for dependent areas from the single Power exercising administration to the international society represented by regional commissions; secondly, the bringing together of dependent peoples themselves in regions where a community of need or interests exists to help each other in the attack on common problems.

Already it is clear that only an organization on the lines of the Middle East Supply Centre offers any prospect of securing the regional co-operation which is essential for effective development in that area. Unilateral action tends to provoke political difficulties even when it possesses the resources to achieve its limited purpose. The *Fortune* article may therefore be welcomed as evidence of a responsible point of view in the United States, and that at least some support will be forthcoming for the use for post-war purposes of effective instruments shaped primarily to serve war-time ends. The oil conference which began in Washington on April 16 may also promote confidence. The seconding of Dr. B. A. Keen and Dr. E. B. Worthington as joint scientific advisers to the Middle East Supply Centre to undertake a survey of scientific problems of the Middle East, from Libya to Persia and from Syria to the Sudan, indicates the importance attached by the British Government to the Centre as well as to scientific work overseas. The appointments should at least rouse further interest among scientific workers in these regional developments, the potentialities of which are as yet not widely appreciated.

It should not be thought, however, that obstacles to such developments are to be found in the United

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States alone. Lord Cranborne, it is true, in a statement in the House of Lords, has indicated that the British Government would welcome collaborative and consultative machinery to facilitate the solution of problems which transcend the boundaries of political units in appropriate areas. This statement, which may well be an indirect reply to General Smuts' explosive thoughts on the new world last November, to some extent discounts the reluctance of the Government to commit itself in statements regarding the future of the Middle East Supply Centre. Moreover, there is nothing in the *Fortune* article which is at issue with the principle firmly maintained by Lord Hailey in his lectures at Princeton University in February 1943, which have now been published under the title "The Future of the Colonial Peoples" (Oxford University Press. Issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. 1943. 3s. 6d.), that administrative responsibility must be undivided. The willingness or eagerness of the Colonial Power exercising administrative responsibility to govern and develop its dependent territories in accordance with the outlook and spirit of the international community does not, and should not, mean divided administrative responsibility.

It is not only in the Caribbean and in the Middle East that British colonial policy during the War has earned the sympathy and co-operation of the United States. "Mass Education in African Society", issued by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies early this year (see *NATURE*, May 20, p. 606), indicates an outlook which is an immeasurable advance on the views of even two or three decades ago. Recognizing that the most formidable obstacle to development in Africa is illiteracy, the report argues that the problem must be attacked by the means, and on the scale, adopted in the U.S.S.R., China and Turkey. The evils and injustices which have to be overcome in Africa demand leadership, co-operation and an informed and intelligent public spirit. Co-operation, the active participation of Africans in the administration of their own country and the execution of great schemes of social reform are impossible if the community remains illiterate.

Education and social welfare must go hand in hand; and as Turkey has combined mass education with the organization of rural industries, so we may use it to meet the need, which Lord Hailey has emphasized, for greater specialization in African rural economy. By the measures indicated in the report, including the wide extension of schooling for children, with the goal of universal school within a measurable time, the spread of literacy among adults, together with the development of literature and libraries, the planning of mass education within the community as a movement of the community itself, involving the active support of the local community from the start, and the effective co-ordination of welfare plans and mass education plans so that they form a comprehensive and balanced whole, the report believes that proposals could be advanced for eliminating illiteracy within the next two or three decades.

With the details of the task ahead so ably delineated in the annexure to this report we are not concerned

here, but the spirit and outlook of the whole document should compel tribute from even the severest critics of British Colonial policy. The note of urgency is rightly struck, for the next stage of partnership with the Colonial peoples cannot follow that of trusteeship unless and until those peoples are given every opportunity of equipping themselves to take their full place in the modern world. Moreover, this may well demand as generous provision of finance as schemes already under consideration for welfare and development. If mass education and welfare plans are in fact to be comprehensive, balanced and co-ordinated, there must be full understanding on the part of the citizens of Great Britain; for the responsibility of finding the necessary financial assistance will fall on them.

The case so ably argued in this report deserves to be made known as widely as possible, and it is the more important that public opinion in Great Britain should awake to the opportunity. The French Committee of National Liberation is considering a number of recommendations on French Colonial problems coming from a conference held at Brazzaville. These proposals also would handle public health and education in a large and generous spirit. They call, for example, for mass treatment of malaria and more preventive measures. A central school for medicine with a well-organized mobile service would demand an addition of 700 French and 1,800 African medical men.

Nor is it only in such fields as these that friendly emulation should arouse a wider and deeper public interest in Great Britain in Colonial affairs. When we are seeking with Lord Hailey to transform our relationship to the dependencies from that of trusteeship to that of partnership, it must be recognized that there are parts of the Empire where, in spite of specific pledges, the term trusteeship can scarcely be used to describe the spirit of our policy. Of these Kenya is a striking example, and uneasiness, not to say dissatisfaction, has repeatedly been expressed in both Houses of Parliament on this question. It is not too much to say that in Kenya the disparity in the treatment of the rights of the settlers and the rights of the indigenous population has become a matter of grave concern. That is attested by the studies in Lord Hailey's "African Survey" and by Sir Alan Pim's report on the financial position of Kenya quite as fully as in the less dispassionate publication of the Fabian Society, "Kenya: White Man's Country?" (Research Series No. 78). The Colonial Office is studying plans for remedying this neglect, which it is understood would provide for expenditure under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on such objects as housing for Africans and the improvement of hospital and school accommodation. The Fabian Society paper welcomes such measures, but urges improvement both in the labour legislation and administration of the Colony—matters on which the recent International Labour Conference may be expected to have some beneficial effect.

There is substantial support for the view that white settlement in Kenya should never have been encouraged; but the termination of existing white settlement is rightly dismissed by the Fabian Society

report as not practical politics. On the other hand, the maintenance or extension, by fresh settlement, of the present privileged position of the European settlers is firmly opposed, and a programme for the political and economic advance of the population of Kenya as a whole is advocated as the most reasonable policy. This will involve various development schemes, as well as attention to the whole question of industrialization and the provision of transport, political representation of Africans and the abolition of all discrimination in favour of non-Africans regarding land occupation and tenure, backed up by vigorous attention to soil conservation, agricultural improvement and the like.

This report to the Fabian Colonial Bureau is a reminder that it will not always be possible to avoid political issues in dealing with Colonial problems. Much can be done, however, to make the political difficulties less acute by appropriate action in technical fields. Therein lies, in fact, one of the greatest hopes of a real contribution from such regional experiments as the Middle East Supply Centre to the solution of particular and dangerous political problems. The recent conferences organized by the Middle East Supply Centre, particularly the Agricultural Conference in Cairo, have shown, for example, that Jews and Arabs can come together to discuss schemes of regional development. Joint plans for raising the standard of living of Jew and Arab alike might go far to eliminate distrust and friction, while war-time experiments in the production of chemicals, plastics and rubber from industrial crops may stimulate the growth of a new technical and professional class in each community, with interests in common. This should still further assist participation in regional development schemes and provide wider possibilities of economic and political co-operation.

What is required is that the opportunities which are opened up for statesmanship should be realized and grasped. In Palestine, for example, there are possibilities of dealing with the difficult racial problem on wider lines in association with a Syrian Federation and with regional economic development in the Middle East. The West Indies Conference which opened at Barbados on March 13, when for the first time representatives of the Caribbean possessions of Britain and the United States met to discuss their common problems and work out a co-operative programme of action, has similarly indicated possibilities of Anglo-American co-operation which, if used with imagination and wisdom, may profoundly influence future world organization. Again, the present position affords us a great opportunity of putting Kenya on a sounder basis, both by large social reform and also by increasing African representation on governing and administrative bodies. There is much to be said for sending to East Africa a commission to do there what the Stockdale Commission did in the West Indies.

Whether or not such a measure be adopted, a report issued for consideration at the International Labour Conference entitled "Minimum Standards of Social Policy in Dependent Territories" will assuredly enforce reconsideration of British policy and adminis-

tration in Kenya and elsewhere. No one document has put better than this report in its opening chapter the implications and possibilities of recent regional developments, and shown how successive steps such as the establishment of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, the Middle East Supply Centre and more recently the Agreement of January 21, 1944, between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, envisaging the establishment of a South Seas Regional Commission, make one pattern.

The chief strands in this pattern are becoming clearer. They include a heightened conception of responsibility and an increased tempo in the development of self-government, closer relations between the dependencies and other interests in the different regions, and growing recognition that a main aim of policy should be the establishment of freedom from want; increasing co-ordination of economic and social programmes; a wider conception of social policy to include educational, public health and labour reforms; the establishment of new tropical industries and diversification of tropical agricultural production. The remoteness of tropical regions may well largely disappear through the development of air transport, but it is clear already that, apart from the world interest in security and welfare, these matters affect more than the Colonial Powers directly responsible for the administration of the separate territories.

It seems that, making allowances for local exceptions, the general economic foundations of social progress in dependent territories will be the development of the existing primary industries, supplemented by secondary industries concerned largely with processing primary products and providing elementary needs. Peasant development involves special difficulties, such as land tenure, where the spirit in which policy is administered is important. Again, there is the disputed question of compulsion for educational purposes or in the general interest of the country, and thirdly, the general problem of increasing the welfare of the peasant cultivator, not only by improving his methods but also by organizing the supplementary economic activities which he is not able to provide for himself.

Once again in this report we find the importance of education is stressed, particularly with reference to the evolution of self-reliance in social policy, the development of an individual and communal sense of informed responsibility, and of effective organs of consultation and collaboration. For the latter purpose the establishment of boards to deal with the co-ordination of social policy is suggested, and as a feature of regional technical collaboration the use of regional labour conferences. The main proposal of the report is that the appropriate authorities should examine the advisability of accepting certain fundamental principles of social policy in dependent territories and of providing for the extension and development of international minimum standards to such territories. A draft of such standards is included for submission by international agreement to the authorities concerned with a view to their application to dependent territories. These standards might also

serve as the principles subject to which the financing of developments in under-developed territories might operate.

In the territories where the present Colonial Powers retain direct control over labour and social policy, the fundamental principles formulated in this report should serve without difficulty as a basis of policy. If they are to apply to territories with wide and growing powers of self-government, the association of the immediate governments of those territories and their organized employers and workers will be required. Every effort must indeed be made to obtain the effective collaboration of peoples now dependent, in the amplification and execution of all measures on which their progress and well-being depend. That is a main purpose of the mass education programme, as it is part of the technique for executing that programme. Besides this, a large amount of technical and indeed scientific collaboration will be involved, and it behoves all whose services may be required in such duties to do their utmost to take the problems of development into an atmosphere of dispassionate inquiry and disinterested service. In so doing they best promote the participation of the American people with us and other trustees of Colonial peoples in the patient but expensive work of establishing the adequate basis in economics and education which is essential before politically immature peoples can stand alone. The cool critical spirit of scientific inquiry is an indispensable factor in the collaboration by which alone we can realize the immense possibilities inherent in regional developments, and build a new Colonial order in which freedom from want and from fear are assured to all without distinction of race.

## VESALIANA

### A Bio-Bibliography of Andreas Vesalius

By Harvey Cushing. (Publication No. 6, Historical Library, Yale University Library.) Pp. xxxviii+230 + 86 plates. (New York: Schuman's, 1943.) 15 dollars.

ONE of the most remarkable developments of exact learning in recent years is the growth of an interest in the history of medicine and science which has shot up in the United States of America. It started almost from nothing, and with bibliographical resources wholly inadequate for detailed and accurate studies. The two Americans who stand out before all others in this movement are William Osler and Harvey Cushing—the former, it is true, of Canadian birth, but none the less an adopted and loyal son of the United States. Both must have been born with the love of books in the blood, and, having achieved eminent success in an opulent profession, they were able to impart a new and sustained impetus to the steady flow from Europe to America of the rarest and most expensive books in medicine and science.

Both Osler and Cushing were gifted with an impelling and charming personality, and succeeded almost without effort in communicating to others their own enthusiasm for the old masters. Like Prince Florizel of Bohemia, they gained the affection

of all by the seduction of their manner and by a well-considered generosity. When Osler found himself in possession of six exemplars of the first edition of the "Fabrica", besides those already in his library, he offered copies to two institutions which as it happened possessed much better ones *presented by himself!* To those who knew Cushing only in his mature years, it comes as a shock to learn of a time when there were "cobwebs in the purse", and when a new purchase had to be smuggled into the house by the back door. But in later years he never considered the cost when there was a prospect of closing a vital gap in the library, and if sometimes he was inveigled into paying £50 for a book which should have cost him 50s., he at all events got what he wanted. He was, however, by no means the only American intent on acquiring the classics of medicine and science. There were many other costly private libraries in the making, and, as they grew, so the work of American historical scholars reached a degree of excellence which it would be presumptuous to praise. In one respect, however, these activities are by no means grateful to their European brethren, since America is clearly answerable for the astronomical prices which booksellers are now demanding and presumably getting, for the older literature. For example, in my younger days I paid 50s. for an excellent copy of the first folio edition of the Parisian Memoires, but to-day the same bookseller is asking £75 for it, and the first edition of Harvey on the circulation has progressed from 4s. 6d. to £800!

The methods adopted by Osler and Cushing in building up their famous libraries were similar and effective. The books were personally hunted down in the collections and bookshops of Europe, the booksellers of which quickly discovered what America needed and made it their business to supply it. As Osler remarked on one of these forays: "I have bagged two 1543 Fabricas. 'Tis not a work to be left on the shelves of a bookseller. . . . We cannot have too many copies in America." The Surgeon-General's Library at Washington is the most complete and best catalogued collection of books of its kind in the world, and if we add to it the numerous private and public scientific libraries, it will be evident that the American student of the history of medicine and science is, from a bibliographical point of view, in an exceedingly strong position. For example, the stately new library of Yale University now houses collections of the earlier literature of the highest importance and value.

As we learn from Prof. Fulton, Cushing spent the last year of his life in preparing the present work for the press. For more than forty years he had been interested in Vesalius, and for the last twenty he had been collecting material for his book, the writing of which was still claiming his unremitting attention until within a few days of his death. The introduction and first five chapters had been completed, two others were planned, but the last three were untouched. "Had he lived a few months longer, he would, no doubt, have finished the work to his own satisfaction." These finishing touches, however, have been faithfully supplied by Prof. J. F. Fulton, Dr. W. W. Francis and Dr. A. Castiglioni. In the completed work the introductory matter includes Cushing's delightful personal "Apologia", a short sketch of the time and circumstances which led to the composition of Vesalius's works, the relations between Vesalius and his illustrator Calcar, and Cardan's horoscope of Vesalius. Chapter 1 deals with