

titanium monoxide, for example, there are five and a half pages on physics, including nearly three on spectra, and only nine lines on its chemistry. On titanium dioxide there are twenty pages on physical properties and only four on the chemical. The writers should see if they cannot find something more to say on chemistry.

The volume on arsenic is very detailed and complete. The sources are given fully, and as much space is given to some of little importance as to the main ones. Some attempt should be made to condense in such sections. There are eighty-three pages on occurrence, which is too lavish. A little more could have been said on the allotropic forms, although pages 116-122 are good so far as they go. The physical properties again occupy much more space than the chemical throughout, but the latter are given in more detail than in some other volumes. The hydrates of arsenic pentoxide are adequately considered. The action of light on arsenic disulphide is not sufficiently emphasized, and museum curators, for all they will find here, can still wonder why their specimens do not keep. Optical properties such as principal refractive indices and axial angles do not seem to be given where they might have been expected.

STUDIES OF SEVEN CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIBES

Seven Tribes of British Central Africa

Edited by Elizabeth Colson and Max Gluckman. (Published on behalf of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, Northern Rhodesia.) Pp. xx+410+28 plates. (London, New York and Cape Town: Oxford University Press, 1951.) 37s. 6d. net.

THE book consists of the following seven essays: Prof. H. M. Gluckman on the Lozi, Dr. E. Colson on the Plateau Tonga, Dr. Audrey Richards on the Bemba, Mr. J. A. Barnes on the Fort Jameson Ngoni, the late Godfrey Wilson on the Nyakyusa, Dr. J. C. Mitchell on the Yao, and Dr. J. F. Holleman on the Hera, Rowzi and Mbire of the Zezuru tribal cluster of central Mashonaland. The tribes are Central African in a vague geographical sense, and all speak Bantu.

"Our plan," the editors write in their preface, "was to produce a general description for each tribe which might be useful to officers working in the region and which could be used by students of anthropology who wished for some knowledge of the types of social organization to be found in the area." This collection of essays, which is intended to serve as a monument of the first eleven years of research planned and carried out by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, addresses itself primarily to two small groups of specialists and not to the general reader with sociological interests; the latter would find himself insufficiently equipped to deal with these, at times, severely technical essays in African tribal structure. As exceptions must be noted two essays which are slightly altered reprints of articles by Dr. Audrey Richards and the late Godfrey Wilson—the only essays which are not written by the Rhodes-Livingstone research team, and its successive leaders since the Institute's expansion. The editors must be congratulated on having departed from a programme of uniform presentation so far as to include these

studies, the omission of which would have deprived the collection of its two fullest ethnographic accounts. Dr. Richards's essay (first published in 1935), in its admirable economy of exposition, is perhaps the best study of the Bemba, a tribe living on the plateau-land of north-eastern Rhodesia, to the study and description of which she has devoted many years.

By far the longest contribution is that of Prof. Gluckman on the Lozi, the ruling tribe of the Barotse nation (in the author's use of the two terms) of the Barotse Plain in North-western Rhodesia, a semi-pastoral group, who have marked cultural affinities both with the Southern Bantu and the peoples of the southern Congo basin, and who, living in the curious habitat of a Central African flood-plain, developed a very complex horticultural economy. The essay is divided into three chapters—Barotseland and the Barotse people (which includes class and tribal divisions); kingship, nation and land; and land, state, village and kinship—from which it can be seen how much the essay concentrates on the tribal political institutions. The centre of these is kingship, the main theme of the essay. Prof. Gluckman has written on several levels of analysis what surely is one of the most important sociological monographs on Bantu kingship.

Tonga as a linguistic term implies a main division of the zone of Central Bantu languages. Apart from the Ila- and Tonga-speaking population, "written material on any of these peoples is lacking". As in the case of the latter this material was scanty, information is very welcome. Dr. Colson, Prof. Gluckman's successor at the Institute, has selected for her research a part of these Tonga-speaking peoples, the Plateau Tonga, a population which has never formed a political group and which can be distinguished only in terms of their location and of the units of the present administration. They are one of the three matrilineal societies dealt with in this book, along with the Bemba and Yao. The description of the village unit is sketchy, that of the family and kin groups informative, and the analysis of the linking of matrilineal groups has many points of interest.

The Ngoni migrated north from Natal in 1820. Their state, of the type familiar from Zululand, was defeated by British forces in 1898, and this caused the decline of the central authority and of the regimental system, and some segmental autonomy. The breaking-up of political institutions, work on European farms and migrant labour are the background against which Mr. Barnes had to study Ngoni life. Dr. Mitchell's Yao, too, represent a "changing culture" in that sense. His investigation, that of the matrilineal system in particular, seems such a solid and imposing achievement that his book will be awaited with impatience.

Dr. Holleman's report on the Shona lacks the definiteness of the other contributions and might more suitably have appeared in a periodical. The report directs the reader's attention to the fact that little is known about this group of tribes, even on the ethnographic level to which the report keeps.

Each essay is followed by a most useful bibliography.

The collection is dedicated to Dr. Edwin W. Smith, co-author of the classic on the Ila-speaking peoples. The editors' few and dignified words of gratitude will be appreciated by all Africanists. The book seems worthy of bearing such a dedication.

F. B. STEINER