

Overseas Development Institute in December. Important as may be official arrangements to deal with difficulties such as loss of seniority or security, a change in atmosphere or in the climate of opinion could be of decisive importance. While devices such as the dormant contract offer prospects of overcoming such difficulties and a small Working Group was set up by the meeting to look into this and other suggestions, there can be no doubt as to the vital importance of a much deeper public understanding of the whole question of technical co-operation and service overseas. An informed public opinion could do much to remedy the startling neglect which the Government has shown over recent years in such fields as overseas research as well as encourage young men and women to come forward. However, professional associations have also a major part to play, and a responsibility which cannot be ignored to do their utmost to see that those who serve overseas on their return lose neither prospects nor security. Public debate and decision in and out of Parliament are to be warmly welcomed as assisting the formation of an enlightened opinion needed to support effectively the Department of Technical Co-operation. Moreover, such would ensure that neither the Departments of State nor professional associations disregard their opportunities and responsibilities in what is now one of the most vital ways in which Britain can play her part in world affairs. A recent issue of *Impact of Science on Society* (No. 4, 12; 1962) was devoted by Unesco to some problems of interest for developing countries, and directs attention to the dependence of the scientist on a host of skilled technicians and assistants if science is to make its full contribution to the development of natural resources in these countries. The training of such personnel and the provision of scientific and technological staff for teaching and research until a competent indigenous staff is available is one of the key problems in technical assistance. It calls for the particular attention of all scientific and technological associations.

IAN CLUNIES ROSS: A GREAT AUSTRALIAN

Ian Clunies Ross

Memoirs and Papers, with some Fragments of Autobiography. Pp. xxiii + 240. (London and Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1961.) 40s. net.

THE death of Sir Ian Clunies Ross at the age of sixty deprived Australia of one of her best-known public figures as well as a leading scientific administrator. To say that for the last ten years of his life he was chairman of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization gives only a small indication of his contributions to the intellectual life of Australia. This book is not so much an account of a notable career as an attempt to capture in print a personality that left a deep and lasting impression, not only on friends and associates, but also on the Australian public.

Lady Clunies Ross tells us in the preface that her husband had cherished the hope of writing a personal history of Australia as he had known it over a remarkable half-century of growth and change. Evidently the present volume was conceived and compiled partly as a memorial and partly in an effort to preserve some of the ideas and ideals and the spirit that Ian Clunies Ross might have put into the book that was never written.

There are an introduction followed by two chapters of autobiography, a diary kept during the last two months of

his life, eleven memoirs written by public figures and colleagues, a short story by Ross himself and ten of his papers, lectures and broadcasts.

It is the introduction by Frank Eyre that will convey most to those not well acquainted with Ross. It outlines briefly his career and introduces the reader to his personality and character. This is an intimate account told with discernment and understanding. Here we first meet the theme reiterated by several other contributors: Ross's most memorable characteristic was his immense charm, which was completely natural and sprang from a sincere and intelligent interest in all with whom he came in contact, from chauffeur to prime minister. He developed to an extraordinary degree the knack of bringing out the best in people. Little wonder that he was rewarded with their affection. Was it not Lord Chesterfield who said that if a man makes people like themselves a little more they will like him very well? Ross had earned the friendship of so many, even among those who had no opportunity of knowing him personally but only through his talks and broadcasts, that when he died Lord Casey said in a broadcast that a wave of sadness swept over the country.

But Ross's natural liking for people was not without discernment. The one thing he could not tolerate was insincerity—and he took a puckish delight in uncovering it.

Ross graduated in veterinary science at Sydney in 1921. After postgraduate study in Japan and at London and Cambridge he became lecturer in parasitology at the Veterinary School in Sydney. Afterwards, he was officer-in-charge of the McMaster Animal Health Laboratory, Sydney, chairman of the International Wool Secretariat in London, professor of veterinary science at Sydney and finally chairman of the C.S.I.R.O.

Ross made valuable contributions to knowledge on hydatid disease, on toxic paralysis of dogs and man caused by the tick *Ixodes holocyclus* and on helminth diseases of sheep. But his main contributions to science were as an organizer and administrator. One hesitates to measure research in terms of financial expenditure, but it is informative to mention that under Ross's chairmanship the annual budget of the C.S.I.R.O. grew to more than £9 million. The remarkable achievements of the Organization, in fundamental as well as applied science, even considering the large sum at its disposal, testify to the efficiency and wisdom of the administration.

Ross was a truly gifted speaker and hence was called on to talk on all manner of occasions. His facility with the English language, his aptness with analogy and felicity of phrase are evident in the parts of this volume written by himself. The words flow effortlessly and with a clarity and continuity of thought that hold the listener's or reader's interest. But the written speeches convey an incomplete portrait of the speaker, for here again it was his lively personality and obvious sincerity that won his audiences.

Some idea of the wide range of Ian Clunies Ross's interests and activities is given by the list of people who have contributed to this volume. These include the Right Hon. the Lord Casey, the Right Hon. Sir Owen Dixon, chief justice of the High Court of Australia, R. J. F. Boyer, chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, Brian Jones, master of International House, Melbourne, in addition to several colleagues in the scientific field, and his son.

Lord Casey wrote: "Clunies Ross believed passionately in Australia and had a very clear vision of its future greatness". He was in every sense a great Australian: born and educated in Australia but with an enlightened interest of other lands—he learnt to speak Japanese the better to understand that people—his influence in many aspects of the intellectual life of his own young country will be a lasting one.

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