

the county councils with the powers suggested by Prof. Buchanan could be beneficial in rural areas. His lecture follows the lines of his earlier larger report, *Traffic in Towns*, and is a further stimulus to the critical and imaginative thinking that is urgently needed if the needs of a civilized community are to be met in the Britain of to-morrow. The study conference last November, *The Countryside in 1970*, like the preliminary enquiry made for the Royal Society of Arts into the *Impact of Industry on Amenities in the Countryside*, is an indication of the awakening to which the Friends of the Lake District refer. Prof. Buchanan's lecture and the pamphlet *Traffic in the Lake District* underline the closing words of the report on the enquiry *Industry and the Countryside*: "the frightening thing about the present day is the rate of change". Whether from the point of view of amenity or of natural resources, effective action on at least regional if not national lines is imperative and should be based not on sectional views but on the interests of the community as a whole.

TROPICAL GEOGRAPHY

Geographers and the Tropics

Liverpool Essays. Edited by Robert W. Steel and R. Mansell Prothero. Pp. vii + 375. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1964.) 47s. 6d. net.

THE twentieth International Geographical Congress, held in London during July 20-28, 1964, and attended by some 2,200 delegates, was preceded and followed by a number of specialist symposia at universities throughout the British Isles, at which small groups gathered for exchange of views. Under the leadership of Prof. R. W. Steel, whose name is rightly associated with geographical research in tropical Africa, the meeting at the University of Liverpool was devoted to the problems of tropical geography. This collection of fourteen essays was published to mark the occasion: the authors have all been associated in some way or other with the Department of Geography at Liverpool. Apart from the fact that the City and Port of Liverpool have always had close associations with many and varied tropical countries, this is the only unifying factor. Indeed, the collection illustrates the quite remarkable diversity of interest of geographers working on tropical problems.

In his introductory essay Prof. Steel reviews geographical work with special reference to tropical Africa and gives a valuable selective check list of 160 works published over the past thirty years. Physical geography is represented by P. H. Temple (Makerere University College) on change in the level of Lake Victoria; E. M. Driscoll on landforms in Northern Australia; Dr. S. Gregory deals with rainfall in Mozambique, and Joan M. Kenworthy with water resources in East Africa. Prof. Paul Wheatley, now at the University of California, Berkeley, devoted his period in the University of Malaya at Singapore to acquiring a proficiency in reading Chinese both modern and medieval. A rich field of original material has thereby been opened to the Western World, and he writes on Chinese knowledge of East Africa prior to A.D. 1500 in a scholarly and fully documented essay—the longest in the collection.

While the significance of the mobility of labour in sparsely populated tropical Africa is well known, Dr. R. M. Prothero has set out to study systematically the continuity and change in African population mobility, while I. F. Masser, now a consultant planner, looks from another angle at changing patterns of African employment in Southern Rhodesia. Settlement is the subject of Dr. G. Kay's study of the Ushi of Northern Rhodesia [as it was then], and F. Lees deals in detail with an example of

Chinese settlement in Malaya over the past 130 years. Dr. Alice Dyson has made a brief summary of part of her lengthy doctoral thesis on land use in Trinidad.

Applied geography is represented by L. S. Bhat's essay on regional planning in India, and Prof. A. T. A. Learmonth's "Retrospect on a Project in Applied Geography in Mysore State" draws on his year of research there. It is left to the final essay by R. Lawton on "Liverpool and the Tropics" to bring Liverpool into the picture. He deals with the changing and expanding trade of the port from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

The volume is well produced; many of the essays are illustrated by clear, well-executed maps and diagrams. Diversity of interest should secure a place for this book in every serious library, even if its classification will stretch the ingenuity of librarians.

L. DUDLEY STAMP

MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

The Sherpas of Nepal

Buddhist Highlanders. By Prof. Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf. Pp. xix + 298 + 55 photographs and 2 maps. (London: John Murray, 1964.) 35s. net.

MANY anthropologists must have envied Prof. Haimendorf his chance. The Sherpa valleys of northern Nepal, closed to Europeans down the years, were opened to a few Western travellers and climbers from the start of the 1950's; the first reports of the Sherpas at home were of a friendly, welcoming, laughing people, with some special gift of cheerfulness—what better task than to put on record their exceptional way of life and to analyse its secret of success? By 1953 Prof. Haimendorf was in the field, and in just under ten years he spent a total of twenty-five months living and working with the Sherpas. Already a Himalayan anthropologist of international standing, he could use his rich chances to the full. He has already published shorter examinations of various problems, and now he gives a long and detailed account of the Sherpa way of life.

In the main it bears out the travellers' tales of spontaneous and rather simple gaiety, but some things indeed are new: there is, for example, far more division in society than had been recognized at first, with the semi-untouchable *khamendeu*, and with the original Sherpa families holding pride of place in the community over other waves of immigrants from Tibet. The structure of society is far more complex than the first impression of the Sherpas' open gregariousness had led one to expect, and yet it functions amicably. This may be traced to the ready acceptance of social obligations and responsibilities, largely on the basis of a *rota*, a system which is carefully and thoroughly described. There is an easy code of sexual morals. Then there is Buddhism, largely benign, which interests Prof. Haimendorf particularly, and on which he writes at length. His account of this is full and sympathetic: he is quite at home, for example, in dealing with such eastern specialities as re-incarnated lamas, offering us, if not outright belief, at least an apparent suspension of disbelief. Sherpa religion came from Tibet, and, as in pre-Communist Tibet, there are here many monks engaged in a wide variety of religious practices, but it would be wrong to see these as in any sense imposed on an indifferent laity who groan under the economic burden—Prof. Haimendorf shows that the great expansion in the Sherpas' religious foundations in fact came after the introduction of the potato had brought increased prosperity, and the practice of religion is the way in which the Sherpas choose to spend their surplus wealth. Yet, however cheerful the great religious festivals, however much at one are the monks and those who support them, it is hard for anyone who is not a Buddhist highlander to be really happy that so much energy and man-power,