

## *Book Notices*

THERE IS still a steady stream of books about Natal and its history from publishers in South Africa and overseas. Notable among those produced last year was the first volume of *Sir Garnet Wolseley's South African Diaries*, edited by Professor Adrian Preston of the Royal Military College of Canada. Wolseley's record of his famous 'champagne and sherry' mission to Natal in 1875 is an outstanding contemporary document, and the scholarly introduction is enlivened by photographs of prominent personalities and pictures of the Pietermaritzburg scene of the time. A second volume will deal with Zululand and the Transvaal, 1879-1880.

In *The Roots of Segregation: Native Policy in Colonial Natal 1845-1910* David Welsh makes a scholarly study of the political, social and economic relations between the colonists and the African population. He provides a comprehensive assessment of Theophilus Shepstone, his successes and failures, and argues that the antecedents of modern notions like apartheid and separate development are to be found in the British colony of Natal rather than in any of the other constituent territories of South Africa. It is a pity that in its printing his work should have suffered some serious pieing.

An unusual book that breaks new ground is *Terror and Resistance, a Study of Political Violence* by E. V. Walten. The author, an American, examines the role of political violence in a number of African societies including the Zulu kingdom of Shaka, and investigates the circumstances in which a government destroys part of a community in order to control the rest. The invisible government of secret societies in West Africa is also described.

The indefatigable J. L. Smail has produced yet another of his assorted picture books. The latest, entitled *Those Restless Years*, covers the Anglo-Boer wars and Bambatha rebellion. It includes a list, useful though incomplete, of 'Forts, fortifications and laagers in Natal and Zululand 1824-1906', and concludes for good measure with a list of 108 'Wars, rebellions, and expeditions in Southern Africa 1510-1953'. These start with D'Almeida's skirmish at Saldanha and end in Korea! The last South African item is that on the Ovambo disturbance at Ipumbu, 1932. One of the more remarkable features of the book is an alphabetical index which is not in alphabetical order.

Don Stayt, 'Wayfarer' of the *Daily News*, has produced a guide to the place-names of Natal and Zululand, misleadingly entitled *Where on Earth?* Though the list is comprehensive and includes out-of-the-way telephone exchanges and railway stations, what is offered on the origins of the names is needlessly patchy and far from complete. Despite this deficiency, it is a useful compilation which complements H. C. Lugg's *Zulu Place-names in Natal*, also published by the *Daily News*. Perhaps, in due course, a second and improved edition will be produced.

With interest in the early inhabitants of South Africa growing steadily, there have been several general books published recently on our prehistoric art and its practitioners. *Rock Art of Southern Africa* by C. K. Cooke, *Art on the Rocks of Southern Africa* by D. N. Lee and H. C. Woodhouse, and *Archaeology in Southern Africa* by H. C. Woodhouse are all useful works. But pride of place must be given to Harald Pager's long-awaited book *Ndedema*. The Ndedema gorge, only 5.5 km long, holds the richest concentration of rock paintings in South Africa. Situated in the area between Cathkin and Cathedral peaks, there are 3,909 individual paintings in its seventeen rock shelters. Harald Pager spent more than two years recording these paintings by a new copy method. Black and white photographs were enlarged and then hand-painted to accord with the original colouring. The method provides detail not previously obtainable. The illustrations are accompanied by chapters on topography, climate, botany, history and archaeology.

The story of the last years of these artists and of their final struggles with more powerful peoples has recently been well told by J. B. Wright in his *Bushman Raiders of the Drakensberg 1840-1870*, which is a study of their conflict with the stock-keeping peoples of Natal.

Though the social life of the Zulu people has received considerable attention from professional anthropologists, little has been written for the general reader. With her latest work, *Suspicion is my Name*, Barbara Tyrrell does much to remedy this deficiency. In this book she is author rather than artist, the drawings and plates serving to illustrate what is recorded about the customs, habits and dress of the Zulu people. The English of the text is a free translation of the information given to the author in Zulu. The title indicates the theme of the book — the floundering of the Africans in a divided world.

Different in approach, but not wholly unrelated in subject-matter, is *White Farmers and Black Labourers* by J. B. Loudon, a work recently published in Holland. This is a study of a community of white farmers and African labour-tenants in a valley in the Drakensberg foothills near Estcourt. It is the first published account of the structure of social relations on white-owned farms. The author worked as a doctor in the area for the best part of two years, and his patients included Whites, Africans, Asians and Coloureds.

In the last ten years a number of Natal schools have reached their first century and, as part of the celebrations, have published histories. Apart from a school's legitimate pride in being 100 years old, the information gathered by the school's historian may be of the utmost value to the professional researcher. Illustrations — some of them rare pieces — are reproduced and captioned and thus preserved in permanent form. Other important documents, too, find a place in a school's published history. *Lift Up Your Hearts, the Story of Hilton College 1872-1972* must bring credit to Neville Nuttall, its author, as a solid and valuable piece of work in all these respects. A strong, well-written narrative is helped by the selection of significant and interesting detail. Added to this, Mr. Nuttall is the fortunate possessor of good judgment. His comments on various episodes of the school's history are full of frankness and good sense. Altogether, this history should wear well. It is expensively produced — the Hiltonian Society must have dipped deep into its corporate pocket — and has many pictures in colour, some of them rather calendary but many of them quite beautiful. The appendices and index are extensive and highly useful.

From time to time Natal provides the locale for a contemporary novel rather than a historical tale. The latest comes from the pen of James McClure, who was formerly on the staff of the *Natal Witness*, and is now working for the *Oxford Mail*. Called *The Steam Pig*, this is basically a detective story. Pietermaritzburg is Trekkersburg, 'a green-grey mould at the bottom of an unfired bowl', and beyond Trekkersburg is the Bantu township of 'Peacehaven'. A feature of the story is the account of how Lieutenant Kramer and Sergeant Zondi of the Murder Squad collaborate.

Mrs. Amy Young after many years of indefatigable research has produced for private circulation the story of the Blaikie family in Natal. Descended from Edward III through John of Gaunt and Robert Bruce of Scotland, the first Blaikie to reach Natal was Anthony Adrian who arrived in 1861. *Blaikie of Aberdeen* traces the ramification of the family from that date, and the complex intertwining of countless collaterals. In addition to the many family adventures and anecdotes recorded in the book, there are photographs, 70 pages of genealogical tables, and, most important, a 30 page index that gives ready access to the information assembled by the author. Three hundred and fifty copies of the book have been printed for distribution to the family and various Natal and overseas libraries. It is indeed a commendable piece of research and a worthy successor to her *Hathorn Family History*, published in 1967.

The early pioneering years of missions seem to receive more attention than the later years which are often more complex. A doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Natal by L. E. Switzer and entitled *The Problems of an African Mission in a White dominated Multi-racial Society* deals with the American Zulu Mission in South Africa 1885-1910, and is a useful pointer to the work that is waiting to be done.

Another doctoral thesis available in the University of Natal library is *A History of Education for European Girls in Natal 1837-1902* by Sylvia Vietzen. The University of Natal press is hoping to publish 'multilith copies of this work as it should be of interest to many.

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