

members. This possibility Professor Viner believes, justifiably in the reviewer's opinion, to be greatly exaggerated—on the ground that economies of scale are largely associated with the individual plant rather than an entire industry, that such economies are unlikely to be great once plants are of moderate size, and that even a small country can acquire plants of this efficient but moderate size.

Looking at the future prospects of customs unions, Professor Viner finds them rather dim. The obstacles to their creation, in the form of government planning and quantitative restrictions on trade, have greatly increased in recent years. (Witness the continuing difficulties of uniting the economies of the Benelux Union.) In any event, excessive concentration on the customs union as a solution for current pressing problems may well divert attention from such superior measures as "the balanced multilateral reduction of trade barriers on a non-discriminatory basis."

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Rural Cuba. By LOWRY NELSON. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1950. Pp. x, 285. \$3.50.)

Nelson's study of rural Cuba is one of the most important contributions sociologists have made to the field of Latin-American studies. The research upon which the book is based was soundly planned; the gathering of the data and the analysis of the materials were carefully done; and the results and interpretations were skillfully and lucidly set forth. For many years to come *Rural Cuba* will be required reading for all who seriously attempt to understand Cuban society; and, indeed, it will stand high on the list of references for those wanting tested and reliable information about Latin America in general.

Nelson obtained the bulk of the materials for the volume while he was serving in Cuba as rural sociologist for the United States Department of State. While employed by that agency, and working under the technical direction of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture, he spent from September, 1945, to September, 1946, in Cuba carrying on comprehensive studies and surveys of rural life in the island. During this period he traveled extensively throughout the length and breadth of the country observing first hand the relations of people to the land, the organization of neighborhood and community activities, the composition of the various social classes, the distinctions based upon rank, and many other aspects of rural society. In addition, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, he organized and directed careful surveys of eleven areas selected

to represent the most typical portions of Cuba's principal type-of-farming areas. Finally, the book itself gives evidence that he devoted a great deal of time and effort to a study of the existing literature, including the historical and geographical materials.

The scope of the work is revealed by a consideration of the titles of the thirteen chapters into which the volume is divided. The first of these sets forth the Cuban paradox, "Rich Land—Poor People," and the second summarizes the demographic materials under the title "The Cuban People." A concise description of the geographic setting is included as Chapter III, "Land, Climate, and Seasonal Rhythms," and this is followed by the presentation of the materials dealing with "Locality Groups and the Settlement Pattern." Two other chapters, "Land Division, Measurement, and Registration" and "Systems of Farming," complete the analysis of the highly important relations of man to the land. That Nelson attributes great significance to the class system would seem to be indicated by the fact that two of his thirteen chapters are on that subject, Chapter VIII being entitled "The Social Class Structure," and Chapter IX, "Social Stratification in Rural Cuba." "The Cuban Family," "The Level of Living," "Education and the Schools," and "The Rural Prospects" complete the list. In addition, there are two appendixes, the first of which is "A Brief Description of Areas Covered by the Special Surveys," and the second an analysis by Alejandro Fernández de Cueto of "General Social and Economic Conditions in the Cienfuegos-Trinidad Survey Area." A glossary, a selected bibliography, a subject index and an index of names are also included. Ten charts add greatly to the presentation, and the tables, fifty-four in number, were carefully designed.

One can find little in the volume to which legitimate criticism might be directed, but it does seem unfortunate that a chapter on religion and the church was not included.

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Ideological Differences and World Order; Studies in the Philosophy and Science of the World's Cultures. Edited by F. S. C. NORTHROP. [Published for the Viking Fund.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1949. Pp. vi, 486.)

Scholars have always been advocates of unity and order, and among contemporary students of the problem of peace scientists have taken a leading role. Robert Oppenheimer, for example, has insisted that if we seek world order we must first discover "those areas which we have in common with the peoples of the world everywhere." Only by doing