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COSMO PIETERSE:

With three items this week, let's introduce them straight away. From Botswana an agricultural snippet kept over from a recent "University Report" discussion; anaesthesia in Nigeria; and from Kenya, a first glance at a social anthropological survey of great fascination and interest.

A varied a full bill of fare - so we'll take our reports in order. First - on cattle breeding, ex-farmer and sometime breeder of stud cattle, Professor Paul Devitt of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. Professor Devitt is now Head of the Sociology Department on the Botswana Campus of U.B.L.S. and leader of the important Botswana Livestock Industry Development Project about which he recently talked to our Allan Macartney in "University Report". During their research in the Kalahari for the Botswana Livestock Development Scheme, the project field-workers made an interesting discovery. Talking to Allan Macartney about this discovery now, Professor Paul Devitt:

PROFESSOR DEVITT:

What we found is that when hard times come the mortality rate among cattle is very much higher among lactating cows with small calves at foot than it is among any other class of livestock, and the reason for

PROFESSOR DEVITT:
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this is a very obvious one. These cattle, these cows, are emaciated after the birth of their calves, generally speaking. They, because they are lactating, and perhaps for a number of other reasons as well, are obliged to water daily instead of every two days. Because they have a small calf at foot they are further limited in mobility, and this means they are only able to graze within a couple of miles radius of the village, and they never actually get out to where the good grazing is. Therefore, they become progressively impoverished, they become progressively unable to move out further from the water and eventually you find them simply dying within a few hundred yards of the watering point. In fact, in most villages the bare area around the village bore-hole is scattered with the skeletons of these unfortunate calves. So what we thought of to counteract this process, which is obviously a very serious one in terms of herd growth, because there's no sense in breeding stock which is being thinned out in this way, is to construct a camp, perhaps several square miles in area in a place where there is good grazing, but not too far from the water. Into this camp we would bring cows who are about to calf; we would keep them there for a certain period after calving so they would not, within this camp, be in competition with stronger stock. Furthermore, it would then become possible to wean calves at a reasonable time, because under the present situation cattle not herded, there are no fences in the area and, therefore, it is more or less impossible to wean a calf from its mother. This means that you often find a calf virtually as big as its mother, sucking on its mother, and so weaning will then become possible, which is an advantage both to the calf and to the cow, and controlled breeding becomes possible because you can draft in bulls at certain seasons, rather than having the bulls running with the calves throughout the year. In this way we

PROFESSOR DEVITT: think we can improve the rate of increase of the stock.
CONT'D.

COSMO PIETERSE: Professor Paul Devitt, Head of the Department of Sociology of the Botswana Campus of University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. And now on to medicine, for which we go to Zaria in Northern Nigeria. In previous editions of "University Report" we've heard from staff of the Faculty of Medicine and of the Institute of Health of the Ahmadu Bello University, how the traditional medical courses are being modified to meet the practical needs of hospitals and rural dispensaries in Nigeria.

Today we hear about another aspect of the Faculty's work - anaesthesia. How is the traditional approach being modified in this field? Are there problems concerned in making patients unconscious for painful operations peculiar to Nigeria? Professor Phyllis Edwards is Head of the Department of Anaesthesia of the Faculty of Medicine at the Ahmadu Bello University. In Zaria, Robin Story asked her first about the aims of the Department.

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: To set up an absolutely first class department, I want to be able to do research into the problems of the arid tropics. I want to teach medical students, and anyone else who wants to learn about anaesthesia in the arid tropics; and to demonstrate the scope in these conditions. It should become a centre of excellence where all countries with similar problems can co-operate.

ROBIN STORY: And how have you tried to further this international co-operation?

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: Well I was lucky in the first place because you know I was here at the very beginning of anaesthesia in Nigeria, in the early fifties, so I know most of the West African centres. I've been over to Makerere to see them there, and see how they tackle their similar problems. I've taught in India in the Far East, and now I'm off to the Cameroons for a short visit to try and link up with a French-speaking university.

ROBIN STORY: In Nigeria, it's clear that there is not going to be enough Doctors who are qualified Anaesthetists for a long time to come. What is being done to meet the immediate need for trained staff?

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: Well firstly, all our young Doctors, in addition to traditional teaching in modern anaesthetic techniques, we'll have experience in organising local teams and helpers and training them. Then they are doing crash courses now for Anaesthetists, and they would help out in the hospitals. And we're setting up an integrated scheme of the government medical services, we shall train anaesthetic technicians, boys and girls - school-leavers, who will come to us for one year's basic study and then two years in the hospitals; and they can go out to the hospitals to help the doctors with the anaesthetics.

ROBIN STORY: I believe they use very sophisticated equipment in Britain and America to administer anaesthetics. Can these machines be used successfully in the Nigerian General Hospital. Are there technical staff to keep them working?

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: We haven't actually yet got on to this highly specialized anaesthetic equipment, but we do use the traditional apparatus. But here, you see, we are very lucky, we have our medical engineer, Bill Eaves, and he modifies and he invents new kinds and he produces robust apparatus which we can use out here. And what is more, he trains hospital mechanics and medical students - all of us who have to use this apparatus, he trains us to look after it and to care for it so we have good stuff that doesn't go wrong.

ROBIN STORYL I believe you still find time to organise research projects in your department. What sort of things are you investigating?

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: We are investigating native drugs. We want to find out their effect on the patients, if they have taken them before anaesthetics, and we're trying to find out whether there aren't new anaesthetic drugs we can get out of the native drugs that are in use around us now. We're also investigating the affect of anaesthetics, or the lack of anaesthetics on women in labour, the effects on the babies, that is, and this will take some years to find out. And then we're trying to find out what the normal blood pressures are: Is it the same here as it is in Britain, or is it quite different? Until we know the normal, we shan't be able to gauge the abnormal.

ROBIN STORY: And what are your plans for the future?

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: Well, I want to make a film. I want to make a film for teaching purposes, it can be shown in Europe or America to doctors who are coming out to the tropics,

PROFESSOR EDWARDS: and then they'll know before hand what to expect, and
CONT'D. they'll be able to get cracking right away.

COSMO PIETERE: Professor Phyllis Edwards, Head of the Department of Anaesthesia at the Medical Faculty of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. And so, finally, to Kenya where our man in Nairobi, Ahmed Salim, talked for "University Report" to Dr. Gideon Mutiso. Dr. Mutiso is a lecturer in the Department of Government at the University of Nairobi. He has recently been involved in research on the role of women in rural politics. Now he first outlines to Ahmed Salim the significance of a study of the role of women in Kenya's rural politics.

DR. G.C. MUTISO: What I'm trying to do in the rural areas of Kenya is to study the women organizations which exist in the rural areas, rather than the nationally based women organizations which do some few things in the rural areas in attempt to find what their impact is in terms of the process of development; in terms of raising fund for development projects; in terms of campaigning for candidates, you know, for Parliament and other political offices in terms of changing roles of women. There has been the assumption that African women never have too much to do with public affairs, and indeed, as a general research project which emphasises the post-war period, and I hope that in the next two or three years all the data will be analysed and we can have a general picture of the political, social and economic role of the African woman in the rural areas.

AHMED SALIM: Well that sounds like a very interesting project Dr. Mutiso. But it seems to me from what you've said that they have more effect, and more of an impact, on the rural areas than have the urban centred women organizations. Am I right in this?

DR. G.C. MUTISO:

This is true if one thinks of organizations like the Nyakenya Mabati Women in the districts of Nyeri to some extent Muranga and in parts of Kiambu you can talk about these very basic organizations which are really only centered in the district. They only organise the rural women, and they don't have too many relationships with any other organization at the national level be they political parties or other women's organizations. I suppose what I'm suggesting is that the women organizations which are national like Maendeleo Ya Wanawake during the colonial period. These organizations have sort of ossified and they really don't have a very significant role to play in the rural areas. Probably one ought to point out also that the nationally based organizations have become part and parcel of the national political process, so the politicians and the big civil servants compete for leadership of these organizations, and indeed this has become one of the reasons why they are rejected in the rural areas. The organizations have not really managed to have any meaningful relationships with the rural areas, in terms of affecting the lives of the greater body of women, and indeed in terms of making detailed contributions in the rural areas.

Now I should point out, most of the followers, most of the rural women organizations are basically not very educated women, compared to the women who are, in the urban based organizations. In fact, a hypothesis I ought to test, is that through these women organizations and maybe other similar rural based organizations that indeed one gets to move the rural areas to the modern sector, in terms of economy, in terms of even politics, in terms of beginning to participate in a much wider society, These are the people who are really making the contribution to nation building in my opinion.

AHMED SALIM:

I see. The conclusion I draw from what you've said is that the followers of the women of the rural women organizations are less educated as a group and sometimes even almost illiterate. What about the leadership of these rural women organizations.

DR. G.C. MUTISO:

Even the leadership, they manage somehow or other mysteriously to recruit their own leaders. Their own leaders from other people who are of similar social economic status as they are, and if you look at some of the organizations in Machakos district, the so called Mbaysya Eitu, these organizations are led by extremely old women to begin with, they recruit fairly old members, about thirty-five. There's a good reason for this, these women go from location to location and sometimes they are away from home for a period of up to two weeks, and as a result, they have explained to me that part of the reason why they never pick officers who are younger, is that the women have to be in a position where if they are assigned a task, three, four, five, six locations away, they have to go and live there until that problem is finished. As a result you are recruiting leadership from a group which doesn't have any family responsibilities. Most of my work that is being done - is to look at the organizations which manage to put a lot of energy in terms of labour and a lot of contribution, in terms of money and in terms of going to projects, developmental projects, and actually working there. They managed to come up with some interesting organizational mechanisms, whereby, they recruit all the clans women, and then they utilise the clan as the effective organizational base. It is only that in this one particular district Machakos that they have changed the base of the clan organization, they have changed it from being extremely patrilocal to being fairly matrilocal, and this is

DR. G.C. MUTISO:
CONT'D.

a fundamental change which only has come in the last ten years. Indeed we urgently need some sociologists to study the phenomena how you can convert, what are supposed to be primordial organizational styles in own societies into a new system. And indeed utilise it for some very modernistic orientated kinds of tasks - like building primary schools, health centres and even making new roads.

COSMO PIETERSE:

Dr. Gideon Mutiso of the Department of Government, University of Nairobi, Kenya on the role of women in rural politics in Kenya. We shall be reporting much more fully on this fascinating research in our next edition. But for now, with barely enough time to say it, from me, Cosmo Pieterse, it's goodbye until next week.