

educational development which exist in the different countries of the world? One could readily add twenty more such questions.

Orr's book is in many respects stimulating and inspiring, particularly in its insistence that when the war has been won a great opportunity awaits mankind to plan its economic and political life on a sounder basis. It is by pointing out the absurdities and failures of the present systems and by clearly describing the ideal which scientific development makes theoretically possible rather than by elaborating concrete constructive proposals, that such minds as his can make their most useful contribution to post-war development.

W. R. A.

**Report on the Fish and Fisheries of Lake Nyasa.** By C. K. Ricardo Bertram, H. J. H. Borley and Ethelwyun Trevavas. (The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London), 1942. Pp. 181. Price 12/6.

This paper is the report of a Fishery Survey that was conducted on Lake Nyasa during 1939 in conjunction with the Nyasaland Nutrition Survey. The three authors of the report formed the members of the Survey. Lake Nyasa is the third largest of the African lakes and is 350 miles long and about 50 miles wide at its widest part. It occupies about a third of the whole of Nyasaland. During the Nutrition Survey by Dr. B. S. Platt it was realised that no economic or dietetic improvement for the people of Nyasaland could be planned without a programme for the rational exploitation of the natural resources of the Nyasa lake. As a result of this the fishery survey was undertaken.

The report embodies a detailed account of the fishes of the lake, their description, economic importance, distribution, methods of capture, size and feeding and breeding habits.

Among important food fishes are the species of *Tilapia*, *Labeo*, *Barbus*, *Bagrus* and *Clarias*. A list of all the species with local names has been given in the order of economic importance. The condition of the various fisheries of the lake has been discussed. There are two European fishing stations working on the lake. A large portion of the fish from these fisheries is exported. At present fish in fresh condition is not available for the local population living more than about three miles away from the lake shore. According to the report, just a fraction of the local population living near about the shores of the lake, is engaged in fishing. Organised fishing throughout the year is not done. The existing methods of fishing and fish curing have been described. The appendices at the end of the report contain data regarding hydrographical readings, geographical distribution of fishes, catches from nets and traps, fishing in different seasons and localities, results of curing experiments, fishery regulations, etc. The report is well illustrated with figures and photographs of important fishes and fishing methods of the lake. Recommendations have been given for the enlargement and rational exploitation of the fisheries. Though valuable information about fishes, fishing methods and the fisheries of the lake has been recorded in the report, the survey cannot be regarded as complete since it had to be abruptly terminated on account of the commencement of war.

It is clear from the report that lake Nyasa is a vast and productive fishery resource. There is immense scope for its development. It may be suggested that the Government of Nyasaland would do very well to appoint a whole-time officer, well trained in fisheries work, to carry out the suggestions made in the survey report and to organise the development of the fisheries of the lake on sound scientific and technological basis.

B. S. B.

## CENTENARIES

### Robison, John (1778-1843)

**JOHN ROBISON**, a Scottish inventor, was born at Edinburgh, 11 June 1778. After leaving the University, he worked for a short time at cotton mills at Manchester and in 1802 he was appointed to a business house at Madras. From there, he entered the Nizam's Services and was chiefly employed in the furnishing of guns ammunition. He also laid out grounds for the Nizam on the English model. Having acquired a considerable fortune, he left India in 1815 and spent his later life in inventions and other scientific activities such as the secretaryship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the founding of Scottish Society of Arts.

He contributed more than seventy papers to scientific periodicals. His inventions were numerous and ingenious. From boring a canon to drilling a needle's eye, nothing was strange to him. He made a marble pendulum for the

clock of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, as being less subject to variations due to temperature than metal. He was knighted in 1838. He was always enthusiastic in making known merit among talented artificers.

Robison died, 7 March 1843.

### McCoy, Elijah (1843-1929)

**ELIJAH MCCOY**, a Negro inventor, was born in Canada, 27 March 1843. He specialised in the automatic lubrication of machinery. He took more than forty patents, the first of which dates from 1872.

He was a pioneer in devising means for steadily supplying oil to machinery in intermittent drops from a cup, without the need for stopping a machine to oil it. His lubricating cup was in use for many years in the engines of railways and steamships and in factories.

McCoy died in an infirmary, 10 October 1929.