



Family Structure in Nineteenth Century Lancashire.

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a compulsory way' social, economic and marital status, the wearer's age, occupation and domicile, applies to many rural communities on the Continent. For instance, at a wedding in the Bavarian mountains, it was pointed out to me that the small wreath on the groom's sleeve signified that he had no children, and that the bride was unveiled because a veil was not considered seemly for a peasant's wedding. It is noteworthy that much more is known about holiday dress, which is principally 'a sign', than about everyday costumes which mainly serve practical purposes.

A few more dates might have been added to this indispensable book. The neat drawings are very instructive.

ELLEN ETLINGER

ANDERSON, MICHAEL. *Family structure in nineteenth century Lancashire* (Camb. Stud. Sociol. 5). x, 230 pp., maps, tables, bibliogr. Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1971. £5 'What did industrialization do to kinship in Britain' (p. 4)? Dr Anderson analyses the social structure of Preston in Lancashire from the censuses of 1841, 1851, 1861 in an attempt to answer this query. He compares his findings with a sample of neighbouring agricultural villages and to accounts of rural Ireland. He also uses contemporary descriptions, particularly in parliamentary papers. The types of question he asks are: what was the structure of the household; where did people move to after marriage; who did people depend on for jobs and in emergencies; was there a close tie between parents and children? His findings on these and related problems such as migration and poverty will interest anyone concerned with either the family or urbanisation.

Why, then, is one dissatisfied? The answer seems to be that the evidence is too thin to meet the questions asked. Thus the problems concerning the structure and geographical distribution of the family, dealt with in chapter 5, are excellently treated and this would have made a most useful article. The information and theories in the ensuing six chapters could also profitably have been presented as an article. As it is, from chapter 6 onwards we became lost in a morass of guesswork and jargon. Two major improvements may be suggested. It is clear that the analysis of the 'unique' western European kinship and family system from historical materials will require a complete re-thinking of anthropological concepts and techniques. But it is also clear that the models of Talcott Parsons adopted by Anderson (along with the awful style) are unhelpful. It is necessary to understand the work of Evans-Pritchard, Lévi-Strauss, Malinowski and, behind them,

of Morgan McLennan *et al.* in order to work out a new theoretical framework. Yet, however good the hypotheses and questions, the sources will also have to be better. I would be very surprised if a town as big as Preston over a period of a hundred years only had the following manuscript sources—three censuses, a set of letters for one year, and a diary. Are there no court records; taxation and administrative records; wills; parish registers? All such sources (the last, which is mentioned in passing, especially) take much time to analyse. It is unfortunate that Anderson is still caught in the individualistic Ph.D. system when it is obvious that social history can only be adequately investigated by co-operative groups.

ALAN MACFARLANE

Linguistics

WHITELEY, W. H. (ed.). *Language use and social change: problems of multilingualism with special reference to eastern Africa* . . . foreword by Daryll Forde. x, 406 pp. London: Oxford Univ. Press for the International African Institute, 1970. £3

This is a book of sociolinguistic readings with a difference. While one third of the papers are of a general theoretical character, most discuss the social implications of multilingualism in one region, east Africa. The book as a whole is the product of the Ninth International African Seminar (Dar es Salaam, 1968). For most readers, the main interest will lie in the more localised section, for two reasons perhaps: first, because this volume heralds further publications arising from the Survey of Language Use and Language Teaching in East Africa; second, because these particular papers, while demanding less of the reader in the way of specialised indoctrination, still convey a great deal which is of both practical and theoretical interest. The section heading 'Empirical studies within Africa' may in fact be a little misleading, since it contains much of value for example on the nature of language contact situations, the identification of speech communities, cross-cultural meanings, implications of different techniques of data elicitation, the language/dialect distinction, motivations behind language development policies, and so forth. Theory is certainly not lacking here, rather being an integral part of, also cutting across, the various problem areas investigated. What *is* missing is a clear sense of the bearing which several papers in the theoretical section might have on the assessment of the east African situation as reflected in the remainder of the book. This point is well handled in Whiteley's Introduction in respect of two of these, but the point applies more generally; for ex-