

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

UNESCO's Role in a Changing World, by René Maheu, *Travail Social, Paris.*

...What has been called Unesco's operational action is, in fact, the putting into practice of humanitarian ideas. The ever-widening gap between under-developed countries and advanced countries will be reduced, little by little, only by dint of education on a vast scale. What is first needed is the training of key-workers in the emergent States which have recently acquired independence and also a programme of assistance to these States in the organisation of their own educational systems in the light of results obtained in other countries but adapted to indigenous conditions. All men must be given the benefit of scientific achievements by making available to all the modern techniques designed to improve living conditions.

The lightening rapidity of scientific progress in the last few decades has hastened the advent of a world civilization based on technology; but we cannot expect the spiritual value of this civilization to be uniform. In order to maintain and promote differences based on quality, the preservation of cultural standards remains one of the essential objectives. Unesco is concerned with making the characteristic and irreplaceable values of national cultures better known.

Aspects of Economic Development, *Basic Study No. 8.* Published by United Nations Office of Public Information.

We saw that most of the world's inhabitants live in the economically underdeveloped countries, which did not participate in the "Western" industrial revolution that began in the late eighteenth century in England, where special circumstances favoured its growth. The underdeveloped countries now share widespread overpopulation, underemployment, poverty, illiteracy and extremely low standards of living and health. They are underdeveloped chiefly because they lack certain essential means to exploit their resources. These means include precise knowledge of what those resources are, capital for essential investment to develop them, administrators, trained personnel and skilled workers, transportation and power and the existence of steady markets.