

problem of reducing differentials of income in a highly developed and specialised economy - and the ultimate question of how to reconcile the popular demand for a high level of material prosperity and social welfare with an active, operating democracy and a social environment sympathetic to the psychological and emotional needs of the individual in a post-religious era. Miss Scobbie has provided a readable and notably sympathetic account of the issue.

Stephen Maxwell

THE VARIOUS NAMES OF SHETLAND. By Alexander Fenton.

One of the more difficult problems facing the place-name scholar is the interpretation of the names of large physical features like islands, major rivers and mountains. Mr. Fenton has tackled a very familiar name to us, but one that is nonetheless difficult, if only because of the variety of cultures, languages and dialects that have affected the general use of the name. It is obvious that Shetland occupied a key place in the Scandinavian migrations, so this booklet is of particular interest to students of the sagas.

The writer traces the development of the

main forms of the name under separate headings. The original Norse Hjaltland and the modern Shetland both have their roots in mediaeval times, and Mr. Fenton has been at pains to document each step as fully as possible. Evidence from Scandinavian as well as English and Scots sources is painstakingly sifted, leaving the reader with a real insight into the origin and development of this fascinating name.

Copies of this attractively-presented booklet may be had from the author, Mr. Alexander Fenton, Scottish Country Life Section, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1VD. The cost is 25p, (or 28p including postage).

Ian Fraser

FAROE : THE EMERGENCE OF A NATION. By John F. West. C. Hurst & Co., London. 1973. 261 pp. of text, 1 map, 50 pp. of appendices & index. Price £3.25.

Almost any new book on the Faroes should be an asset since we have all too little information in English on our northern neighbours. For a quarter of a century the sole, modern book available has been Kenneth Williamson's The Atlantic Islands but this soon went out of print and it was only three