

Faculty Principal Remains A Poet

THE first principal of U.C.W.I.'s new Faculty of Agriculture, at St. Augustine, Dr. Philip Manderson Sherlock, has had a long, practical career in the service of West Indian education.

He has been a headmaster at two Jamaican secondary schools, Manchester and Wolmer's, assistant master at Calabar College and up to the time of this appointment, a director on several school boards.

He holds a B.A. (London) degree with First Class honours in English, yet is equally at ease with his native Jamaican folk-lore, an earthy wisdom with which he has salted many public appearances.

A collection of these folk tales, "Brer Anansi" was published in the United States. He collaborated on a history of the West Indies with a professor of history at UCWI.

OTHER TEXTS

He has written other texts which serve as simple introductions to the history and customs of the archipelago, which he calls "The Mediterranean of the New World," the most recent being "West Indian Story."

He has been an acknowledged legislator, (elected member), an office which he ceded to take up his new post at ICTA, but he remains a poet.

His most prolonged public achievement, however, has been the organisation of the Extra-Mural Department of the UCWI, of which he was Vice-Principal.

This department, which began with the first UCWI faculty (Medicine), extended its influence throughout



DR. PHILIP MANDERSON SHERLOCK

the West Indian archipelago, its extensive programme of adult education, arriving at the time of adult suffrage, wading out the dangers of an illiterate democracy.

In the smaller islands and sleeper hamlets of the bigger Territories, Extra-Mural tutors garnered labourers, fishermen, constables, peasants and petty village officials into village halls and drab school rooms, laboriously exploring theories of civics, the odes of Keats, elementary economics and the aims of Federation.

As Director of Extra-Mural Studies, Dr. Sherlock visited most of such back o' wall areas himself, lecturing to the semi-literate in a kindly voice, unaffected by the company it has kept in Nigeria, the United States, India, Ghana and the United Kingdom.

Before such audiences, he has been known to burst into timoroc folk-song for illustration.

An active Christian (his brother, the Rev. Hugh Sherlock is head of the Methodist Church in Jamaica and founder of Boy's Town, whose most famous alumnus was the late Collie Smith), he applies liberal Protestant ethics to his role of educator and poet.

BARELY IDEALS

A few of his proteges have sometimes criticised the deliberateness of his approach in a time when "nationalism" is the banner of the moment, forgetting that he

has actively canvassed for such facts when they were barely ideals.

He was in at the beginning of Jamaica's surge to a political and cultural identity, along with those writers, painters and public men who gathered around Norman and Edna Manley to form the People's National Party in Jamaica.

In a paper submitted to the 32nd Study Session of the International Institute of Differing Civilisations, held at Munich, this year, he has written of this period:

"It follows that a developing country has to decide what its social objectives

are. Sometimes this is a political decision. Puerto Rico took this decision when in the 1940's it elected Munoz Marin and his Popular Party to power.

"Jamaica did this when in 1954 it gave power to Norman Manley and his People's National Party. A good beginning was possible, therefore, because there was a powerful social purpose, which moved the intellectual and the masses of the people to common action."

Sherlock's "West Indianism" is in the spirit of Munoz Marin, Jose Marti, Aime Cesaire, Reuben Dario and St. John Perse, that blend of public servant and poet, whose origins spring from the common direction of the poorest citizen.

Some months ago, in one of his finest poems, he composed a moving, plain spoken elegy to the memory of a Jamaican plumber and artist named Daley.

VALUABLE GIFT

"Daley was a plumber, Served his time to Hard Up, Hungry Belly walked beside him."

He has written as compassionately of another Jamaican's passing, Noel "Crab" Nethersole, Manley's Minister of Finance.

The range of Sherlock's understanding, a valuable gift in any administrator, encompasses his entire country.

It is this wholeness which the new Federation is striving after, and which the union of ICTA and UCWI symbolises.

"The idea of a single university," he says, "is symbolic of what we believe in."

"Our contribution cannot be in the areas of power, but to the world of ideas."

Although ICTA is at present heavily weighted on the technical side, he hopes to find a place for artistic endeavours among its students, and to make the public aware of the value of its St. Augustine campus, as a cultural centre.

In the next few months, ICTA will begin its expansion programme of buildings, containing 200 students in the Faculty of Agriculture, and 20 to 30 students in the Faculty of Engineering, whose departments are divided into Mechanical, Civil Chemical and Electrical.

Graduates will hold London degrees, and will number approximately 150 at the end of their four-year course.

Both UCWI and ICTA, which are one, in fact not separate, but two colleges under one principal and one council, are now, administratively speaking, in the hands of native sons.

UCWI's principal is St. Lucian-born Dr. Arthur Lewis, its Registrar is Barbadian-born Hugh Springer. In these men there is both

love of country, and vision. "Progress," writes Dr. Sherlock, "begins with people, though it is very easy for a world which has seen the large scale production of supersonic bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles to focus its attention on machines, and overlook the creative power of the trained and dedicated human being."