

## FOREWORD

The purpose of this series of occasional papers, EDUCATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH, is to extend the service already provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat through its conferences, seminars, reports, research, correspondence and visits.

By drawing together material on selected topics of wide educational interest it is hoped that the Secretariat will further promote the interchange of ideas and information among individuals, institutions and countries.

Examinations at the Secondary Level, the theme for the First in this new series, reviews an area of pan-Commonwealth interest. So many of the efforts in the development of new curricula are eventually frustrated by established examination systems. While many have been critical of traditional examinations, the new methods, too, have not been received without scepticism. Meanwhile the demand for educational yardsticks must be met. Equally important as the measurement of the child is the measurement of the system. Every endeavour to make suitable secondary education available to greater numbers of children brings with it the need for close scrutiny of the nature, purpose and goals of that education, and of how well they are achieved. Evaluation involves assessing the product of the system, and when attempting to evaluate, the necessity for examinations confronts us yet again.

Throughout our member countries, and indeed throughout the world, education is being reconsidered, restructured and replanned. The search for increased effectiveness, quality and relevance results ever more frequently in a greater national orientation of the educational system. So it should, but it does not follow that every educationist need carve a painful path in isolation. Much saving of time, effort and already scarce finances can accrue from a knowledge of the techniques and strategies investigated and subsequently adopted or even discarded elsewhere. Failure can be no less instructive than success! Something of value can be derived from every investigation, and in presenting this collection of articles it is hoped that new possibilities may be evoked and new directions indicated.

