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Many of the chapters have already appeared as articles in periodicals, so that there is almost necessarily a good deal of repetition throughout the book. But the work is one whose perusal can be recommended to all who desire to inform themselves of the present position of a subject of great national and economic importance. W.S.

23.—*Domestic Service. An Enquiry by the Women's Industrial Council.* Report by C. V. Butler, with a supplementary chapter by Lady Willoughby de Broke. 148 pp., 8vo. London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1916. Price 1s. 3d. net.

This very interesting report is based upon the replies received to a questionnaire sent by the Women's Industrial Council to employers and servants on the subject of domestic service. 708 employer's schedules and 566 servant's schedules were received duly filled in, and in addition many hundreds of letter from employers and workers. The report, which was practically concluded before the war, deals with the industry under normal conditions, and not, as at present, under abnormal conditions due to the demand for female labour in war trades.

The report draws a clear distinction between the personal and the industrial aspect of the question. It concludes that, so far as the personal aspect is concerned, the domestic servant is at a disadvantage, compared with other workers, as regards loss of liberty, lack of interests, lack of companionship and even loss of caste. As regards the more strictly industrial side of the question, the conclusions arrived at are less definite. Allowing for the value of board and lodging the wages paid to domestic servants compare favourably with those paid in other industries; but, on the other hand, the hours of labour are much longer. The majority of the servants filling up schedules had no definite free time during the working day which might last from 6.30 a.m. till 10 p.m. It is true they were not fully occupied all this time; but they might be summoned for duty at any moment. The "prospects" of service, as compared with other forms of wage earning for women, are considered good for the efficient servant while so occupied; but only moderately good for the wage-earner who, after marriage, has to become self-supporting once more. The evidence on which the latter conclusion is based is not convincing, and, in fact, the whole section dealing with "prospects" is much less satisfactory than the rest of the book. For example, a table is given showing that the number of applicants per place increases with the importance of the place, and also a series of figures showing that the number of domestic servants for the age group 25-35 is greater than for the age group 35-45 and still greater than for the age group 45-65. The report then states "These two sets of figures indicate: (a) that it is hard for the "middle-aged servant, even if efficient, to get good fresh employment, in which experience rather than physical freshness tells; "and (b) that the third or fourth-rate servant tends to get squeezed

"out of service altogether in middle life." This may be true, but the figures given do not prove it.

The report is not very hopeful as to the part trade unions may play in improving the status and conditions of domestic service. It is pointed out that indoor servants are as hard to organize as home workers, and that there is the added difficulty of the industry being concerned in providing personal services. The particular difficulties of domestic service are well summed up in the following passage: ". . . domestic service is, to some extent, an anachronism. You cannot modernize industrial conditions within it unless you transform these conditions completely. It is not like other trades, because here, if you get rid of the capitalist, you get rid of the industry."

This report is a valuable addition to the literature dealing with economic industrial conditions. F.W.

24.—*Memorandum on the Industrial Situation after the War.* By the Garton Foundation. 96 pp., 4to. London: Harrison and Sons, St. Martin's Lane, 1916. Price 1s. net.

Eclipse or Empire? By H. B. Gray and Samuel Turner. x + 316 pp., 8vo. London: Nisbet and Co., 1916. Price 2s. net.

This is Our Land; Problems of the War and Peace from the Point of View of a Business Man. By "Emporos." 130 pp., 8vo. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton Kent and Co., 1916. Price 2s. net.

The Garton Memorandum is stated to have been privately circulated among employers, representatives of labour and public men of all parties between May and September, 1916, and to be now published with the revision suggested by the comments received from these persons. It is the best and most level-headed of the many forecasts of the industrial situation yet published, steering clear alike of the absurd optimism of the majority which represents the war as the greatest blessing humanity has ever received, and the extreme pessimism of the small minority which disbelieves in the probability of healthy reaction. No better summary of the present situation could be made in a few words than the following:—"The prosperity of the present is artificial and transient. It is due in part to strenuous exertion which cannot be continued indefinitely; in part to sacrifices which go unrealized because they are not proclaimed; in part to the depletion of accumulated stocks; in part to the suspension of expenditure on national plant, which, if continued, would end in dilapidation; in part to the temporary absorption into industry of people who will not continue to be producers after the war; in part to borrowing and recalling money from abroad. It resembles in large measure the lavishness of the spendthrift which leads to bankruptcy."

A careful balancing of the probable good and bad effects of the war leads to the conclusion that the national income is likely to be