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was a step in the long process which, except in the Midlands and a few counties elsewhere, had gone very far before the first enclosure Act was passed about the year 1700. The main changes in the practice and character of British farming in the last century and a half are duly noted in Mr. Rew's excellent sketch. In Chapter IV., on the "Migration of Agricultural Labourers," there is a temperate discussion of a thorny question. It was written in 1892, and an addition of a few paragraphs describing the later history of some of the remedies that have been tried would have been useful. For example, when the paper was written the encouragement of small holdings had not passed the stage of suggestion, and the extent to which the first Act on the subject, which was passed soon afterwards, and later legislation, have borne fruit might usefully have been noted.

A fuller account of English farming in the fifty years which followed the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846 is given in Chapter II. When it was written agriculture was in an evil case. Wheat reached its bottom prices between 1893 and 1896. Mr. Rew states the fact, which is emphasised by Mr. Prothero in "English Farming Past and Present," that the main object of the Corn Laws when first introduced, and for centuries afterwards, was not the protection of any class, or even of any industry, but the securing for the nation of abundance of food at a reasonable cost. The aim was not high, but uniform, prices. The ill-judged legislation passed in 1815 made the Corn Laws protective in a bad sense, and involved the downfall of the whole system. While Mr. Rew wisely declines to dogmatise either as to probable effects of the retention of protection in the past or the possibility of a revival in the future, his final chapter on the differences between French and English farming throws some light on the former, and his remark that the demand for a minimum wage for workers may in the end involve some return to protection is worth noting. But the prudent farmer will refuse to trust to any possible fiscal measure as a means of working out agrarian salvation.

J. M. DOUIE

The Land and the Commonwealth. By T. E. MARKS. (London : P. S. King. 1913. Pp. xxv + 314.)

THE "Land Question" is sweeping all before it in the political world as suddenly as Rag-time and the Tango recently swept all before them in the ball-room and the music-hall. Two or three years ago, how many politicians knew that there was such

a thing as a "Land Question"? But ever since Mr. Lloyd George announced his intention of dealing with the conditions of agricultural labour and with other problems more or less closely connected with the land, politicians of every party have been tumbling over each other in their anxiety to produce a land programme. Little wonder, then, that professional publicists and good Liberals eager to prove their value to the Party are bombarding the public with books and pamphlets on the question of the land. Reputations and money are doubtless to be made out of this new form of land boom.

These circumstances alone can explain the publication of Mr. Marks' book. Three years ago, we imagine, no publisher would have looked at it. It is indeed a purely ephemeral work, and would have no popular appeal were it not for the peculiar conditions of the moment. It makes no material contribution to our knowledge of facts, and theory it hardly professes to touch upon. It contains, in short, an analysis of the problems which would have been achieved by any person of ordinary intelligence who had read his newspapers and reviews during the last six months. Some perorations are added which would do well enough on a country platform, but do not fire the imagination when set down in print. Here is one example:—"These reforms are not idealistic: they are in every way practical. If they were adopted they would give the agricultural labourer a new interest in his toil. No longer would he suffer under the monotony and drudgery of his life: he would become a new creature, and sensible of a dignity which has too long been withheld from him."

Apart from purple patches, Mr. Marks confines himself in the main to a statement in general terms of grievances which are now familiar, and to the suggestion of certain remedies. Considerations of space make it impossible to follow him over the whole of the ground that he traverses. It must suffice to say that he travels over most of the country that is marked out for the forthcoming land campaign: rents, wages, and housing in rural districts, the leasehold system and settled estates, the assessment of landed property to rates and taxes—all are considered in turn. A volume of this size would hardly be expected to offer an exhaustive discussion of such numerous and complicated topics. Mr. Marks' book will prove of value to those who wish to master in a few hours the case against the land system, but to those who wish to enter at all deeply into the matter it will be of little assistance.

The remedies suggested also conform to familiar models. A minimum wage for agriculture, rent courts, and leasehold enfranchisement are the most prominent. The Single Tax is condemned, but the total relief of improvements from rates is recommended. Mr. Marks does not, either by abstract argument or by the submission of evidence, help us to solve the more serious difficulties in the way of introducing these reforms. He tells us, however, that the groundwork of his book was completed before Mr. Lloyd George put forward his proposals or the Liberal Land Enquiry Committee had published their report. Herein lies such importance as his work possesses. It affords one more illustration of the remarkable agreement among practical men as to the general character of the reforms needed. G. F. SHOVE

The Foundations of International Polity. By NORMAN ANGELL.
(London : William Heinemann. 1914. 3s. 6d. net.)

THE case against armaments made by Mr. Angell in *The Great Illusion* was so far complete that he has found little that is really new to add to it since. His subsequent publications have been for the most part illustrations of his original arguments with reference to current events. And the present volume, a collection of lectures delivered before various colleges and institutes after the propaganda of *The Great Illusion* had attracted wide attention, is not much more than a restatement. There is, however, this difference : that Mr. Angell, having launched his theory, is now engaged in meeting hostile criticism, and different points of the case are developed and emphasised to meet the attacks of the critics. For instance, much stress is laid on the refutation of the contention, perhaps most dear of all to militarists, that human nature is unchangeable, and that men will always in cases of extreme dissension resort to arms. It is hard to believe that any self-respecting critic, after reading these lectures in which Mr. Angell demonstrates not once only that the use of force is the negation of reason, and that man's rational progress is therefore directly away from the settlement of disputes by force, can ever again put forward this absurd dogma. It is just in this matter, the exposure of popular fallacies and assertion of unwelcome truths, that the author deserves his great reputation as a pamphleteer. Regarded as a complete volume rather than a number of disconnected lectures, *The Foundations of International Polity* is guilty of much wearisome iteration. This, however, as Mr. Angell tells us in the preface, is left uncorrected out of policy.