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Child Problems by Geo. B. Mangold

Review by: R. D.

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in the text, and even some of the line drawings have been so much reduced in scale that a magnifier is almost necessary to read the figuring or grasp the construction. A division of the matter into two volumes might have rendered possible some improvement in this respect also. If a second edition is called for, as we hope may be the case, perhaps it may be found possible to accept this suggestion. If, however, it is desired to retain the limits of a single volume, it would be better to eliminate some of the descriptions which are at present so curt as to serve no useful purpose, and the corresponding figures could go with them. It is surely of little service, for example, to give merely a catalogue cut of Büttner's arithmometer, a single view with no description at all of Grant's machine, or a picture of Selling's machine with a description so brief that it does not even call attention to the essential and novel feature of the mechanism—the use of the “lazy-tongs” for giving the partial products. The space saved in this way might enable the author to substitute for the lists of names and dates at the ends of the chapters references to the original memoirs, or to other works, in which descriptions of the mechanisms cited could be found; the short bibliography at the end of the volume is useful, but insufficient. Should a second edition be issued it will also be possible to correct the spelling of the names given. Mehmke frequently appears as Memhke, A. Sharp as Scharp, Hele Shaw as Hele Schaw or even as Helle Schaw; such numerous errors in names should have been avoided. G.U.Y.

5.—*Child problems.* By Geo. B. Mangold, Ph.D., Associate Director, St. Louis School of Social Economy. (The Citizens' Library.) New York: The Macmillan Co., 1910. Price 5s. 6d.

“The chief purpose of this book is to give its readers a general view of the principal social child problems of to-day.” There is probably scarcely any subject about which there is so much diversity of opinion as that of child rearing, using that phrase in its widest sense. Yet the author has attempted to give a general outline of the whole problem in a book of some 380 pages, small octavo, in which he has sought to produce a work adapted “to the use of the student engaged in college or university work, and also to the general reader who wishes to cultivate this important field of social endeavour.” Such two-fold objective in book-making is always risky, and we incline to the opinion that the author has not escaped scot-free.

The book opens with an introductory chapter giving a brief general survey of the subject, which is then dealt with in more detail in five “books,” headed (i) infant and child mortality; (ii) recent aspects of educational reform; (iii) child labour; (iv) the delinquent child; and (v) the dependent and neglected child. Of the five “books” the first alone gives any statistics, and very few there. Indeed, there is practically nothing to criticise from a statistical point of view, except to note that the rates in the principal table of mortality (page 45) are for the year 1900, and that there are none of later date. We also note the use of “mean

age at death" as a standard of classification of the diseases of childhood, which should be determined by morbidity rates, and of the proportions of deaths under one and under five years to the deaths at all ages, a practice which has been condemned as fallacious.

Statistics apart, there is much in the book to interest readers in this country. In each of the "books" ii-v a good deal of useful information can be obtained, principally by way of contrast between the methods adopted in the United States and here. In the former country the prevention of infant mortality appears to be undertaken more energetically and thoroughly than here. On the other hand, the conditions of child labour are much worse in the States, over one and three-quarter millions of children between the ages of 10 and 15 years being "occupied" at the date of the census of 1900.

American views on education are always stimulating, education in the United States being generally in advance of that in this country. The author has a good deal to say on that vexed question of medical inspection, and its corollary, medical treatment, of school children. He advocates a separate service, apart from the educational and health services, to take charge of the work. In the matter of education reform, he has overlooked one important part of the question, viz., the real efficiency of present methods to secure "education" as distinct from "instruction." That the latter is the main result is, we think, indicated by the eagerness displayed by the children to escape from school and take up work, a fact on which the author lays considerable stress.

R.D.

6.—*The Imperial Organization of Trade.* By Geoffrey Drage. xviii + 374 pp., 8vo. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1911. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This book, if all of it was not actually written "for the occasion," has at any rate been published "at the present time," as the author himself states in his Preface, "with a view to advancing the closer Union of the Empire in trade matters" at the approaching meeting of the Imperial Conference. In the course of an Introduction and Conclusion, and five further chapters bearing respectively the significant titles of Free Trade, Imperial Preference, Retaliation, Tariff Reform and General Tendencies in the United Kingdom, Mr. Drage attempts, with the help of many quotations from the utterances of prominent public men, and of an abundance of facts and figures drawn mostly from official sources, to supply an opportune review, made from the standpoint of a detached but attentive observer, of the various pros and cons of what is commonly described as the fiscal controversy. He points out indeed at the beginning of his essay that much is imperatively needed, and that, with the expenditure of some concentrated study and persevering effort, much could speedily be accomplished, in such a direction as uniformity of legislation throughout the Empire on naturalisation, patents, trademarks, currency, weights and measures, and the like; or, again, in the achievement of greater uniformity of administration, which, as he urges, is obviously lacking in that particular matter of the collection