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mediate policy of his party. Only a small section of English socialists now adhere to the doctrines of Karl Marx. But this repudiation of "catastrophic" theories involves a further change of outlook which few socialists have yet realised. By insisting that they are not revolutionary they commit themselves, whether they wish it or not, to a merely experimental socialism. If their ideal is to be approached gradually, every movement towards it becomes an experiment, of which the results can be tested. Mr. Macdonald has realised that the possibility of a socialist state must be judged by these results, and not by *doctrinaire* reasoning. His appeals to his party for "patient experiment" and for "laboratory work" strike a note which they are not used to hearing. He will certainly not find it easy to impress his attitude upon his followers, for to the most active of them socialism is a religion rather than a series of tentative proposals. For example, the last conference of the Labour Representation Committee adopted the usual socialist formula, declaring its ultimate object to be "the public ownership of all the means of production, distribution, and exchange." But we doubt whether Mr. Macdonald, who only advocates that experiments should be undertaken to test the wisdom of this proposal, was logically justified in committing himself to it before the experiments have been made.

H. B. LEES SMITH

Trade Unions. By GEOFFREY DRAGE. (London : Methuen and Co. Books on Business. Pp. 203. 2s. 6d.)

THIS sketch is intended for those politicians who have had trade unionism forced upon their notice by the Taff Vale decision. Some parts of it have a further value as a corrective to the later chapters of Mr. and Mrs. Webb's history of the subject. From the time of the dock strike and the rise of "new unionism," one can scarcely expect from Mr. and Mrs. Webb a quite impartial account of contentions in which they were active partisans. Mr. Drage also played a small part in these events, and is by no means unbiassed, but his bias is in the opposite direction to that of Mr. and Mrs. Webb. Occasionally this bias leads him to a somewhat serious distortion of facts. An example of this is the description of the "new unions" as bodies formed primarily for socialist agitation and only secondarily for the ordinary purposes of a trade union. Had this been the case they would not have attracted masses of adherents who cared little or nothing about

socialism. All that occurred was that their founders were often socialists, and sometimes succeeded in introducing a socialistic phraseology into the statement of their objects.

In his very practical description of the machinery by which modern trade unions are administered the author shows that he made good use of his opportunity when he was secretary to the Labour Commission. The only inaccuracy which we have noticed in this part of his work is the statement that "the delegates to the Trade Union Congress elect the president each year, giving preference to a delegate of the town in which it is held." This used to be so, but as the position was found too difficult for local delegates, who were often young and inexperienced, it is now held by the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee. The book closes with a conscientious if somewhat laboured application of economic theory to trade unionism.

H. B. LEES SMITH

Essays on Economics. By H. Stanley Jevons. (Macmillan. 1905.)

THE dramatic interest of the appearance of Mr. Herbert Stanley Jevons's volume of essays at this precise moment is so great that the most staid of reviewers could hardly fail to be startled out of the merely impersonal and academic attitude of mind, and must surrender himself for a moment to personal interests. Nearly fifty years ago William Stanley Jevons threw up a lucrative position and splendid prospects in Australia to begin life again under every outward discouragement in the hope of making himself a "powerful good" in the world by writing on Economics. How he pursued his purpose, sometimes almost with a breaking heart, how nobly he ultimately vindicated his bold determination, and what serene peace and bright hopes surrounded his personal life at last, is known to all readers of his *Letters and Journal*. And now his son, with whom, as a child, we made acquaintance in that volume just upon thirty years ago, has thrown up the honourable position which he early attained in the world of science, and has come back from Australia to devote himself to the study of Economics, to popularise, to elaborate, and to supplement his father's work.

*Inque brevi spatio mutantur saecula animantum
Et quasi cursores vitae lampada tradunt.*

The present reviewer was called upon in the last number of the ECONOMIC JOURNAL to record his impressions of the latest work of the elder Jevons, and in this number he asks leave, in the