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will be considerable. Altogether, Mr. Williams' pamphlet contains the most hopeful scheme yet put forward for dealing with the organisation of labour at ports.

R. H. TAWNEY

Problems of Boy Life. Edited by J. H. WHITEHOUSE, M.P.
(London : P. S. King and Son. 1912. Pp. 342. Price
10s. 6d. net.)

A BOOK of this size and at this price on the problems of boy life should either give a full and comprehensive view of the whole question or, dealing with special aspects, it should embody the results of research. There is no explicit statement in the book as to the object in view. Judged from either standpoint, the book is far from satisfactory. In spite of the fact that eleven writers contribute to it, the whole ground has certainly not been covered. The treatment is unsystematic and lacking in proportion. The work of the juvenile labour exchanges and advisory committees receives scant notice. The organisation and problems of the various kinds of lads' clubs might with advantage have been dealt with, as well as the question of trade schools. One problem of boy life which so far has not received the attention it deserves, and which the book practically ignores, is that of juvenile unemployment. The matter is certainly referred to in connection with the proposal to establish schools for unemployed boys, in a passage which indicates that the writers misunderstand the suggestion. Even though attendance at such schools "would be of short duration," it would not be "worthless" by any means. Little fresh knowledge would be acquired, but on the other hand, the demoralisation consequent upon even short spells of juvenile unemployment would probably be averted. The great value of such classes, however, would be that, working on experimental lines, knowledge would be obtained of how to deal with the young out-of-work when the Government discovers the folly of allowing thousands of boys to receive unemployment benefit at the rate of 3s. 6d. a week without requiring some sort of guarantee that the time will not be spent uselessly and aimlessly.

Problems of Boy Life does not add much new knowledge either of facts or methods of treatment. Mr. Tawney's "Economics of Boy Labour" (the bulk of which appeared in the ECONOMIC JOURNAL, December, 1909) is, of course, an important contribution, as also is Mr. Norman Chamberlain's study of the station lounge. Many of the chapters contain little or

nothing that is new. The book is not sufficiently constructive except in a vague and general way. This is particularly noticeable in Mr. Whitehouse's chapter on "The Supervision of Juvenile Employment," which in a space of about three and a half pages deals quite inadequately with the Choice of Employment Act. At the present moment nine detailed schemes have been sanctioned by the Board of Education. Fully twenty others are being drafted, or having been arranged are awaiting Government sanction. The day for vague generalisations is therefore past. Both choice of employment committees and juvenile advisory committees have come to grips with the problem; many secondary problems have sprung up before them. Mr. Whitehouse's book might therefore have been of real service by dealing with matters such as these. Further, one of the most important "problems of boy life" is that of the continuation school, which certainly does not receive thorough treatment. What we wish to know about continuation schools is not *why* they should be established, for that is a matter almost of ancient history, but *how* they should be established. Some industrial processes are "held up" in the absence of juvenile workers. The withdrawal of boys and girls from textile factories for attendance at continuation classes will be a matter of great difficulty. How may it be met without increasing the number of these labourers? In glass working the operatives work in "chairs" of four or five, one of whom is a boy. What feasible suggestion can be put forward in order to allow attendance at school without causing a great amount of disorganisation? On such topics as these the book is silent.

The book contains eighteen chapters. The editor writes on "The Reform of Elementary Education," R. H. Tawney on "The Economics of Boy Labour," the Rev. S. J. Gibb on "Boy Labour: Some Studies in Detail"; Mr. Gibb and the Editor on "Boy Labour: Towards Reform." Mr. Clark Kennedy contributes a chapter on "Boy Labour and the Factory System," in which (p. 105) he gives 1838 as the date of the Whig Government's Factory Act of 1833. "The Boy Criminal" is dealt with by Mr. J. M. Myers, following which is Mr. Chamberlain's chapter on "The Station Lounger" mentioned above. Mr. Whitehouse has two chapters on "Street Trading by Children" and "The Supervision of Juvenile Employment." Mr. T. C. Horsfall contributes an interesting (if scarcely relevant) chapter on "Dr. Kerschensteiner's System of Education in Munich." Dr. Marion Phillips reviews the school as a means of social better-

ment, whilst the Rev. W. H. H. Elliott writes two chapters on "Children's Care Committees" and "Homes for Working Boys," the latter of which is much the better of the two. There is an unsigned chapter dealing with "Religious Influences and the Adolescent." Mr. J. L. Paton follows with a consideration of "Cross Fertilisation in Schools." There is a chapter on "The Breaking down of Caste," by Mr. A. H. Hope. The concluding chapters summarise "recent Parliamentary and other inquiries concerned with problems of boy life" and "the compulsory age for school attendance in foreign countries."

The book is interesting enough and will be useful to the general reader, who however will probably consider the price prohibitive. On the other hand, the serious student of social problems is likely to want more for his money.

ARTHUR GREENWOOD

An Experiment in Alien Labor. By E. GEORGE PAYNE, Professor in Harris Teachers' College, St. Louis. (The University of Chicago Press. Pp. 72. 3s. net.)

THIS pamphlet is a translation and an elaboration of a thesis written in German by the author when he was a student at the Universities of Bonn and Berlin. It is a study of the problem of Chinese labour in South Africa; why the experiment was made, the conditions under which it was carried out, and why it failed. The author's main interest in the matter arises out of the Asiatic question in America, but his impartial investigation of the South African episode is of great value and interest in its more immediate bearing upon the bitter controversy of seven years ago and the future labour supply of the gold mines.

At the close of the South African War, the difficulties in the way of getting an adequate supply of unskilled labour were very great. The demand for labour in agriculture and on the railways was considerable, and the supply did not respond at all freely to the demand. The natives had sold their cattle at high prices to the army, and were, not unnaturally, disposed to rest and be thankful. The mineowners urgently demanded a large supply of cheap labour, and suggested methods for obtaining it which ranged from driving the natives to work, either directly by Governmental compulsion or indirectly by the economic pressure of heavy taxation, to the introduction of Chinese coolies. Professor Payne supports the mineowners in their demand for cheap labour. "The employment of whites as unskilled labourers in the