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Review

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He comes, therefore, to the conclusion that the cartells have not promoted export trade on healthy lines, and that the exports which they have encouraged have in the main been merely "crisis exports," the effect of which has reacted unfavourably upon home industry just at a time when it has been least able to hold its own against foreign competition. "It is not too much to say that, without the syndicates, their dividing-out of production, their restriction of competition, and their price policy, the exports of the industries affected would have increased much more rapidly, for without them production would have increased to a greater extent, and this would have led to larger exports. The syndicates cannot therefore be regarded as a means of promoting a strong export trade." It is only fair to suggest that if Dr. Morgenroth is right in his assumption, there is no certainty that the "dumping," which is wrong in the syndicates, would not have been resorted to by the individual undertakings. In passing, it may be noted that Dr. Morgenroth is of opinion that the syndicates in the mineral and iron industries have to some extent cut the ground from under themselves, owing to their encouragement of the powerful "mixed" works, which are (he holds) in a position to dispense with the aid of syndicates and even of protective duties. He touches here a question of deep interest, viz., the domination of the "mixed" works in Rhineland and Westphalia, and their present influence upon the "pure" works. A study of this development and of its relation to the wider question of the syndicate movement would be of extreme value, and Dr. Morgenroth would render a further service to industrial economics if he directed his investigations in this channel.

WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON

Maternità e Lavoro. By BERTA NOVICH. Pp. 340. (Milano : Remo Sandron, 1907.)

IN this book the author makes an impassioned appeal for compulsory payment of wage-earning mothers by the State during the time of enforced absence from work. She traces at length the entry of women into the industrial field, showing that their earnings are necessary to the support of the family. The father, unaided, can no longer provide for the maintenance of his household, and to supplement his inadequate earnings the mother must frequently take upon herself a double burden. Maternity, moreover, lowers her economic value, and she is paid on a lower scale than a man for equal work. To add to her difficulties, her earn-

ings, indispensable during normal periods of good health, cease altogether during her month of enforced absence from work, and at a time when deprivation is necessarily more acutely felt. Mother and child are insufficiently nourished, and ill-health and sickly constitutions are the natural result. Thus we rear a puny race of workers. From the point of view of the State, as much as from that of the individual, it is of the first importance to recognise the urgent claim of wage-earning mothers to compensation for enforced absence from work.

For what has been attempted in Italy in the matter the author has but little that is good to say, and she altogether ignores the fact that Italy is the first country which has proposed legislation on the subject. The Factory Act of 1902, which was the first law to restrict in any way the labour of women in Italy, laid down that women may not return to work under one month after the birth of a child. In order to compensate workers during this time, it was suggested that a national fund should be founded for the purpose. The Labour Department undertook an investigation after the Act of 1902 was passed, in order to ascertain to what extent the fund was needed, and the number who would benefit by it. In 1904 the results of the inquiry were published, and stress was laid on the abnormally high death-rate among infants of wage-earning mothers, and the low birth-rate in that class. In 1905 a Bill was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, which was intended to supplement the Act of 1902, and applied, therefore, only to women who come under that law. It provides for a fund to be raised by (1) an annual compulsory payment for every woman worker from 15 to 50, to be paid half by the employer and half by the worker; (2) fines from employers who have broken the Factory Act; and (3) legacies and donations. The worker's contribution will be drawn from her earnings by her employer. The estimated amount of the fund required is based on a careful calculation of the general earnings of women from 15 to 54, and on the birth-rate among women operatives. From this fund would be given to every worker at child-birth a daily grant during the period she is compelled to be absent from work—the grant ranging from 10d. to 2s. 6½d. per day, in proportion to the amount of her earnings. After the first introduction of the Bill, a Parliamentary Commission was formed to inquire further into the matter, and it was again brought forward in December of last year. The Bill has not yet, however, been made law. Voluntary funds have been raised to meet the need of maternity

insurance at Turin, Rome, and Milan, but a strong feeling exists in favour of a national undertaking.

The author is opposed to the voluntary associations, urging that they are totally inadequate, that they merely add one more burden to the shoulders of the woman worker, and that they remove the responsibility from the State. Nor does she approve wholly of the proposed Bill, partly on the ground of its insufficiency, partly because the amount of the fund is estimated on a wrong basis. The present birth-rate among wage-earning women, which is far lower than the birth-rate for all classes, would rise as soon as insurance was granted. Moreover, a greater number of mothers would seek work in the factory.

In a final chapter of suggestions, the author throws out proposals of a somewhat impracticable nature with regard to length of absence from work, reduction of hours worked per day, and medical supervision. Her aim, apparently, is not the indirect one of preventing the employment of married women in factories, although this would be the inevitable outcome of the adoption of her proposals.

MARGRIETA BEER

ΠΕΡΙ ΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΗΣ. Α Μ ΑΝΔΡΕΑΔΟΥ. Athens: ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟΤΕΛΕΥΧΗΣ, 1908. Pp. 47.

THIS is a lecture on the Census, given by Professor Andreades, of the University of Athens. The Greek, which is his native tongue, imparts, by its classical associations, a certain piquancy to his valuable remarks on modern statisticians and statistics. The denizen of Western Europe will not immediately recognise, under the veil of a learned language, τὸν Βλῶκ or τὸν Βερτιγιδόν. He will wonder what modern journal is mentioned by the designation τοῦ Τάϊμς. Not all the persons mentioned in connection with a census appear as much at home in Greek surroundings as Cecrops, King of Attica, to whom an old historian ascribes the first enumeration of the Athenian people. From an historical retrospect we pass on to the uses of the census, one of which is peculiar to modern times, to secure the distribution of voting power in proportion to population. The questions asked in the Greek census suggest some interesting remarks. The first demand, *Name*, does not render the second, *Sex*, superfluous. For in Greece there are many female names, Alexandra, Constantina, and the like, which differ little from the corresponding male forms, and the differ-