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Under the heading of labour in the industries Prof. Clapham deals with the division between men's work and women's work, which is fairly well marked; the quality of the labour and degree of regularity of employment; wages, upon which question he has collected some statistical evidence first-hand; and Trade Unionism, which, in the West Riding, is feeble in the extreme. In 1904, out of 260,000 operatives, nearly 200,000 of whom were eighteen and over, less than 8,000 were members of Trade Unions. The explanation is as likely to be psychological as economic, as our author says. The weakness of unionism means, of course, less uniformity in rates and methods of paying wages than is found, say, in the neighbouring textile industry of Lancashire. Chapter VI., on the industry abroad, is necessarily sketchy. I must pass it over here, except to notice that in the wool-working trades, as well as in the cotton trade, the industrial specialism which follows the dividing lines between distinguishable processes in manufacture is far less noticeable in the United States than in England. The inconveniences caused in America by the great distances between some of the factories and marketing centres (by the commercial activities at which alone can a differentiated industry be held together as a unity) no doubt account for this to some extent. Probably there is no lack in America of the specialism of businesses according to their products—that is to say, the big American factories, which in the worsted branch are all round the largest in the world, may turn out a relatively narrow range of products. Finally, in Chapter VII. the state of our foreign trade is scientifically described. The interest aroused by Prof. Clapham's treatment of his subject must be my excuse for so lengthy a review.

S. J. CHAPMAN

Sweated Industry. By CLEMENTINA BLACK. (London: Duckworth and Co., 1907. Pp. xxiv. + 281. 3s. 6d. net.)

IN this work, the ripe fruit of nearly twenty years' experience of industrial problems, Miss Clementina Black gives a fairly wide and most interesting survey of the field of "sweated" or under-paid labour. Sweating is defined in a wide sense. The "sweater" is "the employer who cuts down wages below the level of decent subsistence, works his operatives for excessive hours, or compels them to toil under insanitary conditions." A description of the conditions of work and rates of pay in various sweated industries

is followed by a discussion of the degree of success attained by different remedial measures, whether by the extension of the sphere of the Factory Acts, or by the action of Trade Unions. A critical examination of some "supposed remedies"—emigration, thrift, and Consumers' Leagues—leads up to a vigorous presentation of the argument in support of a minimum wage law.

In the descriptive parts of the work Miss Black writes with unquestionable authority. Her chapters on the home workers; the workers in factories and workshops; shop assistants, clerks, and waitresses; traffic workers; and, finally, wage-earning children, are each and all replete with information as to the actual conditions of work and rates of pay of the victims of the "sweater." These chapters form indeed a very useful supplement to Mr. and Mrs. Webb's *Industrial Democracy*.

By the citation of actual instances culled from her own experience and that of other investigators, Miss Black makes it abundantly clear that in the unregulated industries, where there are no effective Trade Unions, and to which either the Factory Acts do not extend or in which evasion of their provisions is possible, the rates of wages are in general so low as to constitute these industries "parasitic." The conditions of work, too, especially in the case of the home worker, are a danger, not only to the workers themselves, but to the community in general. These evils, moreover, are not the result of the production of low-priced goods. "Sweated" goods are not necessarily low-priced. The taint of the sweater is everywhere. "Much of the work produced by the underpaid is sold at a good price to the well-to-do. On the other hand, under a well-organised factory system, goods that are sold at a very low price are sometimes produced by workers receiving comparatively high wages." Nor is the evil of "sweating" confined to this country. It appears wherever industry "is not either highly organised or else stringently regulated by law."

In her interesting chapter on "How Underpayment Comes," Miss Black is on less certain ground. Wages, it is there maintained, are determined by relative needs, not by efficiency. Now it will be conceded that the relative rate of wages of any particular class depends on its relative bargaining strength, and assuredly the bargaining power of the "sweated" worker is weak. But just as the general rate of wages depends partly on the productiveness of industry and partly on the bargaining strength of labour as a whole, so the rate of wages of any particular class is affected by its efficiency as well as by its bargaining power.

Again, in dealing with Labour as a commodity, Miss Black

maintains that the inevitable consequences of free competition are "impoverishment of the seller, deterioration of the product, and increase of human misery." It would, however, seem more correct to attribute these evils, not to free competition, but to the fact that competition is *not free*. Free competition implies mobility of labour, and that is precisely what is wanting here. The labourer, as Professor Marshall says, is often at a disadvantage in bargaining. He is commonly poor, and has no reserve fund, and so cannot hold out for his price. Hence the need of State regulation in the shape of Truck Acts, Factory Acts, &c. And the need is greatest in the case of unskilled workers and women, among whom effective Trade Unions are difficult to form.

The grounds of legal intervention, as Miss Black observes, have always been moral, "but the results have been, not only morally but also economically, of immense national benefit." The Lancashire cotton trade is the standing example of the advantages of regulation. The industry is the most efficient of its kind in the world. The English cotton manufacturer need fear no foreign competitor; and this pre-eminence is ascribed by Miss Black, following Mr. Sidney Webb, to the fact that "the good conditions enforced by law and the comparatively high wage enforced by the Trade Unions combine to create for him the most efficient body of cotton workers in the world."

But there are industries, especially those carried on by home workers, from which sweating cannot be so readily displaced by Trade Union action, and to which the provisions of the Factory Acts have not as yet been effectively extended. To meet the difficulty here Miss Black advocates the adoption of a legal minimum wage, somewhat on the lines of that adopted in New Zealand. No one can rise from a perusal of Miss Black's work without recognising the gravity of the evil and the pressing need of reform. But it is one thing to agree on the desirableness of a given end, and quite another to agree as to the best means of its attainment. It would be out of place here to discuss the arguments for and against a minimum wage law, but it may be remarked that, whether we take it in its Victorian, or, as Miss Black prefers, in its New Zealand form, its success, even under the simple economic conditions prevailing in Australasia, is as yet by no means assured. And the economic conditions of this country are vastly more complex. To us it appears that if the economic history of England teaches anything it is the futility of legislative attempts to directly regulate money wages without altering the economic conditions by which they are determined.

It is too early yet to give up hope that the gradual extension of the Factory Acts so as to bring the home worker effectively within their scope will succeed in bringing about such improved conditions of housing and sanitation as will afford a basis on which Trade Unionism can operate to raise the standard of life and the rate of wages.

ARCH. B. CLARK

From Serfdom to Socialism. By J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.
(London: George Allen, 1907. Pp. ix. + 105. 1s. net.)

THIS little book is Mr. Keir Hardie's contribution to the *Labour Ideal Series*—a series the object of which, as the publisher's note informs us, is "to put clearly before the public a complete conspectus of the present policy of the English Socialists and the Independent Labour Party." Mr. Hardie, in his "Foreword," disclaims the intention to write "an elaborate disquisition on the historical basis of Socialism, or to embody its economic theories and principles in a learned treatise." His work is merely "a brief unadorned statement of the case for Socialism, easily understandable by plain folk," written, as he informs us, "literally in the odd half-hours of a busy period in a life crowded with work." As such, therefore, it must be judged.

There can be no question as to the attractive qualities of Mr. Keir Hardie's literary style, or the superficial persuasiveness of his argument. But this latter quality, it seems to us, is gained only by so adjusting the light and shade as to render it easy to ignore some inconvenient historical facts and economic principles.

Mr. Keir Hardie makes light of those who insist on raising difficulties on points of detail, and whose attitude, he says, "is that of the man who could not see the wood for the trees." Our own fundamental objection to his work is that it is all wood and no trees. At all events their outlines are vague and ill-defined. But the plain man to whom he appeals will insist on putting questions till the outlines become clearer and the trees begin to look a little more real and lifelike.

Socialists, Mr. Keir Hardie tells us, seek the same end as Individualists like Herbert Spencer, namely, the freedom of the individual. They differ only as to method (p. 3). But the plain man distrusts that freedom of the individual which is to be secured through the despotic authority of the Socialist State, and may take leave to doubt Mr. Keir Hardie's dictum that "Socialism and