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tains chapters of a more special character, dealing respectively with "import duties upon wheat," the "British fiscal controversy," and "the causes of Protection." The author has paid great attention to English writings, and refers his readers to many ephemeral papers that have appeared during the recent controversy. His main argument is on familiar lines. Much stress is laid upon the doctrine of comparative cost, and there is a chapter on "The Theory of International Values." The author's aim, however, appears to be exposition rather than discovery, and he but rarely throws fresh light on the dark places that still remain in the analysis of foreign trade. On the practical side, he proclaims himself an uncompromising advocate of Free Trade, and considers the prevalence of Protection on the Continent and in the United States to be due to successful efforts on the part of private interests to gain control over the Legislature. The chapter on "Wheat Prices" is more detailed and less familiar than the main body of the work. The incidental criticism passed on the opinions cited from English writers is not always convincing. But the book is one on which great pains have evidently been expended; it is well arranged and lucidly written.

A. C. PIGOU

The Tariff and the Trusts. By FRANKLIN PIERCE. (New York : The Macmillan Company. Pp. 383.)

MR. PIERCE is a member of the New York Bar. His book is a vigorous and well-written polemic against the trusts and the tariff. The trusts, he maintains, mulct the consumers and corrupt politics; and the tariff is responsible for the development of the trusts. There are three chapters on American, English, and German tariff history; but these are exceedingly slight. The chief interest of the book is in the detailed facts and opinions of American manufacturers that are interwoven with the discussion. It is also entertaining for Englishmen to observe that the argument from lists of firms which have started establishments abroad, so often used here to prove that Free Trade drives away capital, is used by Mr. Pierce, with equal plausibility, to prove that Protection has this effect. On page 29 reference is made to "the Tariff Commission appointed by the Conservative Government of England at the instance of Mr. Chamberlain!" Perhaps the best chapter is that on "American and English shipping." The decline of America's mercantile

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marine was probably, in part, due to causes which Mr. Pierce ignores; but, no doubt, fiscal policy was one cause. In the course of the work a number of interesting citations from various sources are made; but no references are given. In a scientific work this would be a serious blemish. But Mr. Pierce's book does not claim to be scientific. It is an excellent popular plea for a lower tariff.

A. C. PIGOU.

Studien zur Bevölkerungsbewegung in Deutschland in den letzten Jahrzehnten mit besonderen Berücksichtigung der ehelichen Fruchtbarkeit. Von DR. PAUL MOMBERT, Privatdozent an der Universität Freiburg i. Br. (Karlsruhe: G. Braun, 1907. 8vo. Pp. 280.)

THIS volume is a useful contribution to the growing mass of statistical literature on the birth-rate question, a question which is now of pressing importance in almost every civilised country. France led the way, England followed, and Germany is treading the same path; in each country the phenomena are the same in kind, differing only in magnitude or in the epoch at which they first began to be of sensible importance.

Dr. Mombert's studies commence with an introductory discussion of the changes that have taken place in mortality and in the marriage-rate, an understanding of these being necessary for the proper comprehension of the changes in the birth-rate and their meaning. The mortality in Germany, as in Europe generally, fell rapidly during the latter half of last century. In 1850 the death-rate was something like 29 per 1,000; of recent years it has been 20 per 1,000 and less. No satisfactory data of a detailed kind appear to be available for the empire as a whole, but in Prussia, at all events, the decrease has been spread over all ages and both sexes, though the decrease is relatively greatest for childhood and youth. The marriage-rate has fluctuated, but exhibits no continuous trend like the death-rate: as in England, there was a fall from a maximum about 1872 to a minimum about 1880, and thence a gradual rise to a second maximum about 1900. But this superficial similarity masks a most striking difference. While the rise towards the end of the century in England appears to have been wholly due to the rise in the proportion of marriageable persons to the whole population, in Germany no such increase took place, and the change in the marriage-rate appears to indicate a really increased