WILEY

Review

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Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 24 (Dec., 1896), pp. 592-593

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2957195>

Accessed: 25-06-2016 01:03 UTC

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value of five lire, as of five francs, at four marks five pfennigs. Again Japan, Servia, Haiti, and Spain are labelled with an uncompromising D. W. Greece has D. W. fakt. P. W. (papier Währung). But if an unmodified D. W. is to stand, it ought surely to mean that the State mints are open to free coinage of gold and silver at a fixed or market ratio, and that both metals may be and are used for the payment of debts, domestic and foreign.

Errors so serious compel us to look with grave and possibly unfounded suspicion on the phrase 'cowries in internal commerce' as a description of the monetary conditions under which the inhabitants of Oceanian, 'independent island groups in the great ocean,' exchange their products and circulate their wealth.

F. W. HIRST

Finanzwissenschaft. Specielle Steuerlehre. Ergänzungsheft. By ADOLPH WAGNER. (Leipzig: C. F. Winter. 1896.)

THE third volume of Professor Wagner's great treatise on Finance dealt very elaborately with the British and French systems of taxation: no less than 550 closely-printed pages being devoted to the latter country. It is, however, some years since the last instalment of that volume was issued, and several important changes have taken place in the interval, while still more sweeping alterations have been proposed by responsible statesmen. In the Supplement now under notice the Berlin Professor brings his work up to date, and at the same time summarises his previous exposition, in order to make his account of the latest phases intelligible. The happy consequence is that we get the author at his best. All the merits that mark the bulky volumes of the *Finanzwissenschaft* are apparent, but there is no opportunity given for the undue elaboration and the somewhat tedious repetitions that are calculated to repel English students from that work. The outlines of the existing British and foreign systems, together with their development through the last hundred years, are sketched with a firm hand, and illustrated with sufficient statistical detail. A special section is devoted to the reform of the English death duties in 1894, and as all acquainted with Professor Wagner's views would expect, the change receives his approval. The efforts—up to the present unsuccessful—to introduce a general income tax into the already complicated group of French direct taxes are discussed at greater length, and obtain even warmer commendation.

We can hardly feel surprised that Professor Wagner should reassert his belief in the superiority of French methods of organisation over those that exist in England, but we are bound, with due deference, to dissent from it. Tried by the great canons of productiveness, equality, and economy, the revenue system of the United Kingdom may, at the very least, claim as high a position as any other. Great Britain is doubtless free from some of the serious difficulties that must be en-

countered by other nations; but it may be questioned whether the adoption of English methods would not prove in the end the best way of removing some of the gravest of those obstacles. In particular, Prof. Wagner's objection to the British income tax that it is rather a group of produce taxes than a true income tax seems untenable. It is precisely in this differentiation and separate treatment of the sources of income that the income tax excels the Prussian *Einkommensteuer*, and would have proved superior to the abortive French and American proposals.

We also believe that the Parliamentary system hardly receives full justice from our author. It does indeed sometimes happen that useful financial measures are defeated by popular prejudice; but the advantages of full discussion and the need of adjusting financial arrangements so as to accord with the sentiments of the people far outweigh this evil.

In the concluding pages an interesting comparison with German taxation is given and some hints as to the probable future of European taxation are thrown out. We may, however, hesitate to regard the introduction of the socio-political element into practical finance as 'a gratifying advance.'

C. F. BASTABLE

Finanztheoretische Untersuchungen nebst Darstellung und Kritik des Steuerwesens Schwedens. By KNUT WICKSELL. (Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1896.)

Geschichte des Ungarischen Staatshaushalts 1867-93. By A. VON MATLEKOVITS.

DR. WICKSELL'S *Researches* is a somewhat difficult work to review within any reasonable limits of space. The first division is devoted to a series of discussions on the difficult questions that arise in connection with the incidence of taxation. In handling these problems Dr. Wicksell employs the conception of marginal utility as his guiding idea and expresses the doctrines of the Austrian school in mathematical form. He is thus led to more precise statements as to the result of a tax on a monopolised commodity than are usually given, but he is substantially in agreement with Professor Marshall (*Principles of Economics*, 3rd. ed., Bk. v., ch. 13). Amongst the many points handled in the succeeding sections we may specially notice the interesting examination of the effect of an import duty in its bearing on the question of protection (pp. 57 sq.). Dr. Wicksell accepts in general the validity of the free trader's argument that a protective import duty is injurious, but he holds that in the case of a country exporting raw produce such a duty may by its action on the margin of cultivation lower rent, and when large rent remittances have to be made abroad—the author gives Ireland as an example—it is quite possible that the result on balance may be beneficial. On another important point, the shifting