Brook Farm: Historical and Personal Memoirs. By JOHN THOMAS CODMAN. Pp. viii, 335. Price, \$2.00. Boston: Arena Publishing Company, 1894.

The college librarian, who some years ago told a certain inquiring student to look under "Agriculture" for information about Brook Farm, was not altogether without excuse. Here and there in an essay, a novel or a biography one phase or other of that interesting social experiment was presented. The files of the *Harbinger*, too, were not inaccessible, but that journal gave strangely little of local coloring.

Fortunately posterity will not have to rely upon such incomplete and unsatisfactory testimony. The Brook Farm Association was already well established when John Thomas Codman, then a lad of seventeen, came to the Farm as a "probationer." Two years and a half of intimate contact with the Associates as teachers and friends, in prosperity and in adversity, fitted him to speak with both authority and interest.

The first two chapters are historical, tracing the origin of the Association in the thought of George Ripley, its organization as an "Institute for Agriculture and Education," its first, or "transcendental," stage, in which the school was the prime interest, and the Associates were choice spirits from the "privileged classes," and its second, or "industrial" stage, in which the attempt was made to carry out the social teachings of Fourier, some of whose doctrines they had already unwittingly adopted, and to add various mechanical industries to those already commenced, at the same time abandoning all exclusiveness and class restrictions. In the later chapters personal reminiscence is the principal element; the appendix contains interesting letters from students, inquirers and applicants, replies from Mr. Ripley, and an "outside view of Brook Farm Associative Articles."

Not the least charm of this book is found in its vivid sketches of familiar characters in unfamiliar rôles. It is a novel experience to watch such latter day friends as Ripley and Dana, Hawthorne and Curtis, devoting all their youthful enthusiasm to the actual working out of a radical reform of society.

Rarely has "plain living and high thinking" had a more instructive trial. For five years men and women of rare ability and of steadfast devotion to a noble ideal persisted in this Brook Farm experiment. Why did it not succeed? To this question Mr. Codman gives several answers. The sources of income were few. From the beginning the Associates were sadly hampered by lack of capital. The burning of the Phalanstery, just as it was nearing completion, was a dead loss. The site was ill-chosen; it was inaccessible and ill-adapted to agriculture. Several of the industries proved unfortunate selections, requiring

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large initial outlay for a distant return. Again, "associationists" were divided; energy and capital, which might have given prosperity and length of days to Brook Farm, were diverted to the founding of new social experiment stations under slightly different conditions. In short, "the inevitable mathematics of finance were against them."

Yet to the workers the end was not failure; success crowned the undertaking, if success be measured in the development of individuality, in the enrichment of character, and in the Brook Farmers' persistent and growing faith in the ultimate success of association life and doctrines.

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

The Unemployed. By GEOFFREY DRAGE, Secretary to the Labor Commission. Pp. xiv, 277. Price, \$1.50. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

Mr. Drage, by reason of his extensive and prolonged study of industrial conditions in all the leading countries of Europe during years of residence in each of them, is entitled to speak with some measure of authority on the present vital issue of the labor question, the problem of the unemployed. Much of the success of the recent Labor Commission in collecting the valuable data that fill sixty-six Blue Books is due to the enterprise, ingenuity and enthusiasm that Mr. Drage displays in all his work. The book before us is a timely one for American readers, summing up as it does the results of European thought and experience in so far as they have attempted to analyze the causes, classify the phenomena and experiment on a solution of the problem of the unemployed. It furnishes us a basis for comparison with our own recent experiences, and ought to help enlarge our field of vision in the study of a question that is not limited to any one country or line of economic activity.

The chief recent sources of information on unemployment are the Report of the English Board of Trade Labor Department,* the publications of the French *Office du Travail*,† the publications of our National, Massachusetts and Ohio Labor Bureaus,‡ and further, as an indirect source of information, numerous pamphlets and reports on the labor colonies, labor exchanges, etc., in Germany, France, Holland,

* "Agencies and Methods for Dealing With the Unemployed." 438 pages, indexed. London, 1893.

† Especially "*Les placements des employés, ouvriers et domestiques en France: son histoire—son état actuel*," 734 pages. Paris, 1893.

‡ Among these the excellent report of Mr. Wadlin, published as Part I on "Unemployment" of the Report of the Massachusetts Bureau for 1893 (separately printed, 267 pages. Boston, 1894), contains a good summary of the experience of Labor Colonies, etc., with full statistics of Unemployment in Massachusetts.