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and even by university students. Its form is somewhat austere, and all that may be called picturesque in the subject matter, all that might serve as illustration, and to pique the curiosity of the reader, is a little too much despised. To quote but one example, in the chapter on Sismondi there is not even mention made of the famous problem :—What would happen if all the machinery in England could be set in motion by a single handle which a single person, say the Queen of England, could turn? And yet the question makes a great impression on an audience, as we have proved several times.

The book contains by way of appendix a magnificent bibliography, and some diagrams and plates, among which are facsimiles of Owen's Labour Notes, or bills on the Bank of Exchange. The table of contents, on the other hand, is entirely inadequate for the inquirer. There should be a highly detailed index. This may probably appear at the end of the work with the last volume. There are certain to be five or six volumes, judging by the proportions of the two already published.

CHARLES GIDE

Le problème agraire du Socialisme—La Viticulture Industrielle du Midi de la France. Par Augé-Laribé. 8vo. Pp. 362. (Paris : Giard et Brière.)

THE first half of this book's dual title is chiefly ornamental; the latter is the true one. The subject is a somewhat technical inquiry into the organisation, processes, and difficulties of viticulture in the south-east of France, a region where land and population are practically monopolised by that culture. And since the author is himself a native of those parts, and has shown himself an expert on the subject in various publications, the present monographic study is an excellent presentment of facts, and could in this respect scarcely be surpassed.

The former title, however, has some justification in that the author makes his monographic inquiry lead up to the great problem put forward by the Marxist school, namely, how to introduce industrial organisation and concentration into agriculture. Does the evolution of wine-growing in the south of France demonstrate the accuracy of this so-called law so imperiously enunciated by collectivists and even by many economists? Do we see small peasant undertakings being gradually absorbed by large industrial and capitalistic properties? M. Augé-Laribé, whose sympathies

are collectivist, would fain be able to answer in the affirmative, but, his scientific probity being above reproach, he frankly admits that the facts do not bear out such an assertion. He shows that the small proprietors so far have held their own fairly well, and will do so far better when they have learnt to avail themselves of the resources which are placed at their disposal by co-operative association, and which have already resulted in some very encouraging experiments. Still, for the sake of his colours, he concludes with these words :—" It is very probable that in the future the supremacy of capital will be more definitely asserted. We may admit, therefore, that the Marxist theories will still hold good for the wine-producing districts of southern France, but that the economic evolution which must prepare the way for Collectivism is slow and uncertain."

If the chapters devoted more specially to viticulture can have no great interest for English readers, the same cannot be said of the chapter devoted to the agricultural proletariat, and to the efforts made in trade-union organisation, and even to the strikes among rural labour. Such facts as these are interesting to all. Some of these strikes have not been unaccompanied by violence. The reduction in the price of wine has checked them for a time, but it is likely that they will re-commence when that price goes up again. M. Augé-Laribé is of opinion that the wage question in viticulture can only be settled by collective bargaining between the proprietors on the one hand and the labour organisations on the other.

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