WILEY

Review

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Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 43 (Sep., 1901), pp. 391-392

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2956672>

Accessed: 11-04-2016 18:01 UTC

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been found, which promises great results, and it has long been known that much may be accomplished by drainage. For the third evil irrigation, and, in a more marked degree, afforestation, are effectual cures; and for the second the experiment of discharging cannon has been found successful. But "perhaps the most promising branches of Italian agriculture"—dairy and poultry produce, of which the exports have "doubled or more than doubled in the last ten years"—owe their development, not to that governmental action, which might, to a great extent, had it the funds available, combat malaria and drought, but to private enterprise and independent, though associated, initiative. The rapid spread of co-operative dairies and the wonderful development of co-operative banking have wrought a striking change in some districts of agricultural Italy, and raised even the peasant from "indigence" to "comparative prosperity." The common condition of the poorer agriculturist, whether he be labourer or farmer, remains indeed at a low standard, though the metayers, "where the system obtains in its purer form, are the most prosperous and contented section of the Italian peasantry." But even in agriculture "there is a revival, almost as notable as that which has awakened the country's industry to new life." Such is the general character of the conclusion reached by Mr. King and Mr. Okey; and for the details on which it is based we must refer our readers to their interesting pages. We are sure that they will not regret our advice to study with attention the economic chapters, of which there are many, contained in this book.

L. L. PRICE

Outlines of Economics. By RICHARD T. ELY, Ph.D., LL.D.,
Professor of Economics, &c., in the University of Wisconsin.
(New York: The Macmillan Co. 1900. Pp. 432.)

IT is difficult for any one to estimate the usefulness of a book that "is intended primarily for colleges" without having put it to a practical test, and made it a text-book in the actual teaching of economics. It therefore seems better in the present case to describe rather than to criticise Professor Ely's work. It does not, of course, pretend to be a full treatise upon economics, and its end is achieved if it is suggestive and stimulating enough to lead the student on to make use of the bibliography appended to it, and the lists of books that are given at the conclusion of the separate chapters. Book I. contains a historical introduction; Book II., under the head of "private economics," deals with production, transfers of goods (but not international trade), distribution and consumption; Book III. is entitled "Public Economics," and discusses public industry, the relation of the state to private enterprise, public expenditures, and public revenues; Book IV. sketches the development of economics, and there are appendices containing subjects for essays, discussions and debates, courses of reading, and a bibliography. The most interesting part of the book on private

economics is that which deals with transfers of goods. Though there is necessarily much that is scrappy and incomplete, as, for example, in the remarks upon bimetallism, the greater part of the discussion is conducted in a way that holds the attention. It is, if the term may be permitted, dynamic in character, and written from the point of view of one who is advancing towards a conclusion, rather than from that of one who has already reached it, and has half forgotten the difficulties of the ground he has had to traverse. Professor Ely's discussion of value and utility affords a good illustration of this method, and, though perhaps it does not sufficiently bring out the mutual interaction of the forces of demand and supply, it could not fail to stimulate a student to think for himself.

Throughout the book, especially in the parts devoted to consumption and to public economics, there is a good deal that might be described as discussions of individual and political ethics, rather than as economics. But the close relation with the practical problems of life, into which Professor Ely brings his sketch of pure theory, though it would be undesirable in a standard treatise, has the advantage of increasing the interest with which students beginning the subject are likely to regard the "dismal science."

A. C. FIGOU

Die Zukunft der Sozialen Frage. Von DR. GEORG ADLER.
(Jena: Fischer. 1900.)

IN this interesting pamphlet, based on a course of public lectures, Dr. Adler discusses the social tendencies of the present time, and attempts to indicate the direction of their future development. His treatment of the subject is fresh and eminently suggestive.

The first section sketches briefly the broad lines which the improvement in the condition of the working classes has followed in the modern industrial state. Statistics relating to income and cost of living in the various states of Germany are quoted.

In the second section, Dr. Adler arrives at the most interesting part of his discussion, the ideals of the working classes, and the significance of illusions in the further development of the social movement. Why have the workers of almost every country always pursued unrealizable, social utopias, instead of combining to strive for social and political reforms which were attainable? Because, answers Dr. Adler, such illusions have always been necessary in the early stages of every movement. It is they which inspire every great change, and give the impulse to advance. To shake a people out of its apathy and indifference, it is necessary that their minds shall be inflamed by some golden vision quite other than the sober representation of an attainable good. Such illusions, which have played a part in the history of civilization, are to be judged not so much for their reasonableness or unreasonableness, but rather according to their results. The question to be asked is whether in the atmosphere of these illusory ideas the