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Enquête sur les Habitations Ouvrières en 1890. Rapport
par Ch. Lagasse et Ch. de Quéker . . . Bruxelles. 1891.

THIS inquiry was instituted by the *Comité de Patronage des Habitations Ouvrières de Bruxelles* and conducted through the agency of more than a hundred police officers who were charged by the Burgomaster of Brussels to reply each for his own district to 26 searching questions prepared by the Committee. The statistics are given in much detail and offer many points of interest when compared with those presented by Dr. Ogle to the Vienna congress of the International Institute of Statistics. Summarised, they show that according to the census of 31 December, 1890, there were 168,145 residents or 49,619 families in Brussels, 19,284 being workmen's families. Of 19,594 houses, 4,601 were workmen's homes. 491 workmen's families occupy a whole house; 1,371 three rooms or more; 8,058 two rooms; 6,978 one room, in addition to 2,186 who live in a garret and 200 in a cellar. 17,626 are reported as having clean rooms and only 1,658 as dirty. 9 workmen's lodgings cannot be ventilated, and 19 have no natural light. 195 workmen's houses have gardens whose mean superficies is just above 27 square metres. 823 have no yard or garden. 54 serve as rag and bone dépôts. 326 (which are 'named') have staircases which are worn out, dirty, dark, and dangerous. There are 3,436 shops for the sale of drink. 8,822 workmen's families receive no help from public charities. The average *monthly* rent of a workman's lodging is given as 11.68 francs, his average *daily* wage at 3.14 francs. In addition to this source of income, a few families (numbers not stated) have an average daily revenue of 0.84 francs. Other information is given as to unmarried workmen and workwomen living alone, workmen married but living away from home, thrift societies, sanitation, overcrowding, paving, &c.

HENRY HIGGS

The Impossibility of Social Democracy. By DR. A SCHÄFFLE.
Authorised English edition with a preface by BERNARD
BOSANQUET, M.A. (London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.)

THIS appears to be, on the whole, an excellent translation as far as one can judge who writes far from his books without an opportunity of comparing it with the original. The translator, Mr. Morant, has, at any rate, been able to render it into vigorous and flowing English. The original work has now been six years out, but it has been considerably reconstructed in the fourth edition, which appeared last year and from which the present translation is made. The author was induced to undertake this reconstruction from perceiving how the German Socialists had, under the influence of the sufferings they endured from the exceptional law of 1878-1890, grown at once, as he believed, more communistic

in their principles, and more moderate and practical in their political methods. He underrates the importance of the latter part of the change, which exhibits the Socialist leaders to us condemned by the practical necessities of their position, while ever willing the bad, still ever to work the good, and to promote the improvement of the existing order of things which their theoretical principles move them to destroy. But, on the other hand, he seems to exaggerate the importance of the declarations from which he infers the advance of the party from the economic Socialism of Marx to the old Communism of an equal distribution of goods according to individual need. He builds this conclusion, partly on some recent writings which he neither quotes nor names, but mainly on the continuance in the party programme since 1875 of the expression of 'the equal right of all to the satisfaction of their reasonable needs.' But this is, surely, more properly to be interpreted as limiting than, with Schäffle, as contradicting and superseding the more specific Socialist principle of the right of the labourer to the full product of his labour. Dr. Schäffle, however, not only thinks that the party has gone over theoretically to pure Communism, but that its danger to society is immensely increased by the change, because, in his opinion, Communism is a more active solvent than other forms of Socialism and that its operation is not confined to the industrial sphere. He looks on Socialism as a universal philosophy which means atheism in religion and free love in family life as essentially as it means democratic collectivism in industry; and, under the influence of this view, he devotes much more space in the present work to the many adventitious aspects of Socialism than to that examination of its more essential claims which we are led to expect from the title. Atheism and free love may be popular opinions among Socialists, for persons who are in fundamental revolt on one subject are naturally apt to be in fundamental revolt on another, but they belong, not to the Socialism of the Socialists, but to their militant position. If Socialism militant ever passed into Socialism triumphant and the economic system of Socialism became the existing *régime*, there is no reason to think that there would be any more atheists in the world than there are now. It is a pity that Dr. Schäffle, instead of dwelling so much on these matters, did not prefer to amplify his examination of the difficulties which, as he shows, make it impossible for social democracy to realise its industrial and social promises. His treatment of them bears all through the stamp of high ability and grasp, and would be rendered even more valuable than it is by invoking more support and illustration from practical experience. The latter and greater half of Dr. Schäffle's work is taken up with an exposition of his own ideas of social policy, which are much more important for the guidance of the German people than for us, because they are virtually nothing but a recommendation of the general line of progressive social reform which we have been treading more and more firmly all this century—a policy which makes no scruple about giving the State a concurrent rôle in the promotion of the further ameliora-

tion of the people wherever, and as far as, State agency is more likely to be conducive to the end in view and otherwise advantageous than individual or private agency. England has been long solving social problems, as they arise, on this principle, without any consciousness of acting on a general principle at all; but Dr. Schäffle promulgates the principle as a conscious and deliberate theory, under the unfortunate and ambiguous name of Positivism, and tries, not very successfully, to discriminate it from other theories of social politics as alone recognising the distinction, whatever it may be worth, involved in the metaphor that calls society an organism. Under this head of Positivism Dr. Schäffle discusses a number of practical subjects of present-day interest — co-operation, profit-sharing, trade unions, sliding scales, popular and agricultural credit, savings banks, labour insurance, the unemployed, the eight hour day, &c., and his ideas will be found always well worth reflecting over.

JOHN RAE

The Growth of English Industry and Commerce in Modern Times.

By the Rev. Prof. CUNNINGHAM, D.D. (Cambridge: The University Press, 1892.)

THE publication of Dr. Cunningham's second volume was awaited with great interest, for it was known that he would attempt to deal more or less exhaustively with the economic history of the last three hundred years, and every one expected a work of considerable interest.

There is,' he remarks (Preface), 'no lack of excellent books on different parts of the subject, like those of Chalmers, Tooke, MacCulloch, Roscher, Thorold Rogers, and Toynbee; but I know of none that treats it as a whole, or that carefully combines the study of economic aims and opinions with an examination of the events of our commercial history.' 'The present volume . . . aims not merely at stating what has occurred, but at exhibiting how it has come about. We wish to reach not a mere description but an explanation' (p. 3). It goes without saying that Dr. Cunningham has produced an interesting volume, containing much new material. This, indeed, is a task which we should expect an author of such well-known ability to achieve with more or less success, for the hitherto unpublished and unused material for English economic history would suffice for many books of the size of Dr. Cunningham's. The worth of the book depends upon the method of investigation which has been adopted, the principle which has been followed in the selection of material, and the soundness of the author's judgments. These tests must be applied if we wish to form a just estimate of the book.

Dr. Cunningham states in his Introduction the course he has pursued. His object is to explain the *growth* of English industry and commerce; so, he tells us, he concentrates his attention on the economic *changes* which have taken place, especially the beginnings of