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Community 'has revealed to us for the first time the inner life of mediæval England.' He denies that there is any clear documentary evidence for the free village community in England. 'The great majority of the early grants of land, beginning as early as 674, expressly transfer with the soil the cultivators upon it, and speak of them by precisely the same terms, *cassati* and *manentes*, as were in contemporary use upon the Continent to designate praedial serfs' (Preface p. xv). The conclusion implied is that the English manor is the lineal descendant of the Roman *villa*, and that the freedom of the cultivator is comparatively modern. With reference to the Indian village, Professor Ashley suggests that in India, as in other countries, common property may be reduced to common cultivation. 'Where the cultivating group are in any real sense proprietors, they have no corporate character, and where they have a corporate character they are not proprietors' (Preface, p. xlvii). Whether we accept or reject this view, we must allow that Maine's theory of the Indian village community was coloured by his acquaintance with the theory of the Teutonic mark elaborated by Von Maurer and other German writers. The Indian evidence must be re-examined. It is the chief merit of the Essay and the Preface that they compel a new testing of accepted theories.

F. C. MONTAGUE

Industrial History of England. By H. DE B. GIBBINS, M.A.
(London: Methuen & Co., 1890.)

THE difficulties of compressing a vast subject into a small book are so great that cordial acknowledgment is due to the writer who succeeds in that thankless task. Mr. Gibbins has in little more than two hundred pages given a clear and vigorous sketch of the industrial history of England. In writing so brief a history it is impossible to be very original, and Mr. Gibbins frankly owns his especial debt to the late Professor Rogers. That he should have freely helped himself from the stores of that learned writer was reasonable enough; but it is regrettable that he should have copied the dogmatism and asperity which might be pardoned in Mr. Rogers but are inexcusable in a younger man. First, as regards dogmatism. Mr. Gibbins not merely avoids discussion of doubtful points which might overload his book and bewilder the young students for whom it is designed, but he rarely, if ever, hints that on any subject there can be any view other than the one which he adopts. Thus he follows Mr. Rogers in asserting that the fifteenth century was the golden age of the English labourer without the least reference to the qualifications suggested by such writers as Dr. Cunningham or Mr. Denton. Industrial history must be simple indeed if we can always be sure that there is one view which is absolutely right whilst all other views are absolutely wrong. Then as to asperity. Mr. Gibbins has an ill word for almost everybody who has had a chance of doing

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anything in this world. The rulers of mankind perhaps deserve, and at all events will not mind, his severity. What the historians have to suffer may be guessed from the fact that even the late Mr. Green who expressly renounced the frivolity of writing a 'drum and trumpet history' is made to tingle for filling his *Short History* with a string of battles. Coming to men of business, we find that capitalists are bad and landowners much worse. Not only the later perversions of the Poor-Law, but even the original statute of Elizabeth was a contrivance of employers to make the community pay the wages of their men. Of the improving landowner of the eighteenth century we are told that 'he would not have done so much for agriculture if he had not expected to make something out of his condescension.' Certainly he would not. But is not this rather an unfair way of suggesting that it is only landlords, or at most landlords and capitalists, who ever act from motives of self-interest? If the landowners supported the Factory Acts, if the capitalists agitated for the repeal of the Corn Laws, 'the working classes cannot fail to observe that each party was their friend only in so far as they could injure their opponents.' No allowance is made for any of the subtler causes of human error; for the force of habit or tradition, for the influence of inadequate theory, for the difficulty of striking a balance between the good and evil of an untried policy. Twice does the author pause to make the excellent reflection that historians should chronicle facts and not vituperate persons. It is therefore the more to be regretted that he should have introduced into a useful educational work the rancour of party politics.

F. C. MONTAGUE

Studies in Statistics, Social, Political, and Medical. BY G. B. LONGSTAFF, M.A., M.B., &c. With Maps and Diagrams. (Stanford) 1891.

DR. LONGSTAFF has accomplished a task almost as heroic and beneficent as that of the Prophet Ezekiel. He has put life into the dry figures of the Registrar General.

His several chapters (often separate lectures reprinted) are not meant to form one book with a distinct beginning, middle, and end. They fall readily into three distinct groups. The subject of the first may be called English Demography; its chapters deal with the births, deaths, marriages, and census of England, with the growth of the towns and movements of the population. The subject of the second group of chapters (which in this case are consecutive) is the Growth of New Nations; to most readers this will probably be the most attractive part of the whole treatise. The third group includes the Medical essays (on Diarrhœa, Fever, Consumption, Hydrophobia). Though these medical essays cannot be adequately estimated by an ignorant layman, the latter, if he be acquainted with Mill's *Logic*, will be pleased to find in them some fine examples of the Experimental Methods (*e.g.* p. 370).