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Iron and Steel Production in America by F. Popplewell

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activity of the workers. We hope that Lady Bell will add a fresh chapter to her second edition and so increase the value of her book. Meanwhile, it is indispensable to everyone who, with the author, is anxious to learn what the labels of economics mean "in terms of human beings."

HENRY W. MACROSTY

Iron and Steel Production in America. By F. POPPLEWELL.
(Manchester : University Publications, 1906. Pp. 119.)

THE Manchester University has now issued quite a long list of publications, all of which are doubtless interesting to those who are, or have been, connected with that University, while many of the volumes are of sufficient general interest to appeal to a much wider public.

The book at present under review is worthy of a place in this series of University publications, and will be welcomed by all who are interested in the recent remarkable expansions of the metallurgical industries, both at home and abroad. In connection with political and commercial discussions during the past few years it has been often urged that more information is needed, and that research in commerce should be encouraged. To most of us the question as to what constituted commercial research, and how such research should be conducted, has presented a serious difficulty. This difficulty has, however, been largely removed by the publication of work such as that undertaken by Mr. Popplewell. From the preface it appears that as Gartside Scholar of the University of Manchester the author paid a visit to the United States of America in 1903 and 1904, spending three months in the laboratory of a large steel works in Pennsylvania, and the remainder of the time in travelling. The object of the Scholarship is to encourage the study of some industry or part of an industry, and to investigate this comparatively in the United Kingdom and abroad. The industry selected by Mr. Popplewell was that of the iron and steel trade, and one is inclined to wonder at the boldness of the enterprise in view of the enormous dimensions of the industry, its complex character, and the diversity of the products which are obtained. Such an undertaking may be regarded from the point of view either of the expert or of the University student. From the expert point of view it may be suggested that practically all that Mr. Popplewell has said has already been well said in the Report of the British Iron Trade Association, the *Journal of the Iron and*

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Steel Institute, and the technical press. It is evident, too, that in some places the author's metallurgical knowledge is superficial, and it would not be difficult to prepare a considerable list of minor inaccuracies. In parts also the reader feels that he is being treated to pages of the author's note-book, and that the matter has not been digested or put into proper place or form. From the expert point of view, therefore, it may be frankly stated that better things have been done than this.

But regarded as the work of one who is presumably a relatively young man, and just fresh from the University, the book has many strong points. It is written in a style which is likely to appeal to the general student and the commercial man; it contains much carefully compiled information, and reflects the views of one who had just seen and fully appreciated the things described. It covers a wide ground, dealing with an outline of the metallurgy of iron and steel; the extent and development of the American iron and steel industry; the varieties of fuel and sources of supply; the production and transport of coke; the supplies of iron ore; the handling and transport of ores; typical blast-furnace plants, with details of construction and output; the manufacture of steel by each of the important processes; and the production of finished steel. An interesting chapter is also added on American labour and education. In places the descriptions, though brief and matter of fact, are yet graphic, and to one who has had the opportunity of travelling over much of the ground, and seeing many of the things, which Mr. Popplewell describes, the book brings back many pleasant memories, and vividly recalls many almost forgotten facts. At the moment of writing the information is nearly three years old, and perhaps that is, after all, the principal defect of the book.

As a conscientious and clear account of an important industry, and as a typical example of what research in commerce means, the book may be strongly recommended to the general reader; while all metallurgists may find in it much which will be of interest to them, either for present use or for future reference.

THOMAS TURNER

Commercio internazionale. By G. DE FRANCISI GERBINO.
(Palermo: Alberto Reber. Pp. 475.)

THIS book, for the most part, covers the ground treated in Prof. Bastable's *Theory of International Trade*. It also con-