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The Workers: An Experiment in Reality; Vol. I., The East (1897).; The Workers: An Experiment in Reality. Vol. II., The West (1899).; Tramping with Tramps. Studies and Sketches of Vagabond Life. by Josiah Flynt; Andrew D. White

Review by: F. W. Taussig

The Economic Journal, Vol. 10, No. 37 (Mar., 1900), pp. 75-78

Published by: [Wiley](#) on behalf of the [Royal Economic Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2956935>

Accessed: 16/12/2014 11:16

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accurate and definite results can be obtained with only a few data. For instance, by weighting the calculated average wages of four sets of workmen, viz., London artisans, provincial artisans, town labourers and agricultural labourers, the author attempted (p. 70) a view of the general change in the average wage of the country. The accuracy of so apparently rough a calculation is seen on comparing the result with the index-number of average wages in twenty towns, published in the *ECONOMIC JOURNAL*, Dec, 1899, and which relies on at least a hundred figures for each year.

	1795.	1807.	1824.	1833.
Mr. Bowley's estimated average wage	13s. 6d.	17s.	18s.	16s. 2d.
Index number.....	84	105	112	100
Wages in 20 towns	82	104	112	103

The nearness of results obtained by two so absolutely independent ways of applying the kinetic method, places the value of that method beyond dispute.

Other subjects treated in the book are the wages of agricultural labourers, seamen, compositors, and the iron trades ; while the building trades are exhaustively examined with a view to the elucidation of special difficulties. This latter chapter should be of great use to the students for whom the book was prepared. This usefulness is also increased by the inclusion of a select bibliography and a " list of events which have directly or indirectly influenced wages." A few slight errors mar the general good result : for instance, the Social Science Association Report on Trade Societies and Strikes is spoken of as the " Report on Trade Unions in the *Social Science Series* (1860)," a description which might be termed accurate, but which might easily be confused with the Social Science Series published by Swan Sonnenschein and Co.; and on p. 43, line 13, the word " not " completely ruins the sense of what otherwise is a correct sentence.

GEORGE HENRY WOOD

The Workers: An Experiment in Reality. Vol. I., *The East* (1897); Vol. II., *The West* (1899). (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 12mo. Per volume, \$1.25).

Tramping with Tramps. Studies and Sketches of Vagabond Life. By JOSIAH FLYNT. With Prefatory Note by Hon. Andrew D. White. (New York: The Century Co. 8vo. \$1.50).

THESE volumes are very similar in character and purpose. Two young men of education and of well-to-do associations disguised

themselves,—to speak more accurately, converted themselves—the one into a day labourer, the other into a vagabond, and lived the life of these classes in order to secure a knowledge at first hand of their condition. The accounts which they give were in good part printed in American magazines before being put together in book form. Both are interesting in a high degree to the student of social questions.

Mr. Wyckoff, now a member of the academic staff of Princeton University, transformed himself into an unskilled labourer, and as such worked his way without assistance of any kind from the Atlantic to the Pacific, beginning as one of a gang of labourers hired to tear down an old building at West Point on the Hudson, and ending his long tramp at San Francisco. His plan seems to have been to stop in no one place longer than sufficed to enable him to lay by enough to push on a stage further. His experiences were most varied. A day labourer at West Point, porter at a summer hotel, farm hand in Pennsylvania and later in various places in the West, timber cutter in a logging camp, truckman in a factory, hostler and man of all work in a stable, member of a mining gang,—these are the different sorts of employment to which he resorted. Our respect for the pluck shown in carrying out the weary programme is not lessened by finding that Mr. Wyckoff's earnest religious faith led him to frequent attendance at Sunday services, and so gave him a glimpse of the workman's relations to the church observances of the well-to-do.

Perhaps the most striking fact, in all this varied experience, is the comparative ease and steadiness with which employment was secured. Unknown and unskilled, continually presenting himself for employment in new districts, he yet was able to make his way with surprisingly little hardship in a journey which must represent almost the extreme of difficulty in the way of securing employment. The only experience suggestive of wretchedness was in Chicago during the winter of 1892, where he did encounter a congestion of the unemployed, and found the struggle hard. Even thus, he succeeded before long in securing regular employment in a factory, and later in the operations for the great Exposition of 1893. Once out of the large cities, there seems never to have been any difficulty in securing employment at adequate

As regards the social and intellectual life of the men with whom he consorted, Mr. Wyckoff's book is particularly interesting. It is not a cheerful picture, on the whole; and indeed could not be, since as a rule he consorted of necessity with the least fortunate of mankind. Especially in such episodes as the winter months in the Pennsylvania lumber camp, we see a life of unremitting labour, with coarse food and the roughest shelter, of which the proceeds are likely to be dissipated at the end of the season in a wild debauch at the nearest town. On the other hand, whenever a strictly agricultural region is reached, not only is there no difficulty in securing employment,—repeated offers were made of a permanent and comfortable

home in the quiet and monotony of farm life,—but the social surroundings, especially in a Western state like Iowa, were almost idyllic.

In any case, it is obvious that such an experience as this, interesting as it must be to every one who wishes a close view of the lives of manual workers, can tell but a fragment of the story, and by no means the most significant fragment. It is the casual unmarried labourer whom Mr. Wyckoff sees and consorts with. Of the labourer who marries and founds a family, and so constitutes the normal case, or at least the case which we should wish to be normal, he could see virtually nothing. No doubt the unskilled labourers are in large part recruited from the ranks of the casual and unmarried searchers for work, but it is at least a question whether they constitute the most important element in the class. It would be easy to get a distorted impression as to the condition of this social stratum, if the inevitable limitation in Mr. Wyckoff's observations were forgotten.

Mr. Flynt's volume touches an entirely different problem. He disguised himself, apparently not for one continuous journey, but on several occasions, as a professional tramp, thus consorting familiarly with the "hobos," as these gentry are termed in the slang of the United States. Himself a hobo for the time being, he studied their habits and ways, even their jargon, and here reports his observations. While most of his experiences were with the American tramps, he associated also for brief periods with those of Germany and England, and with the religious and unreligious beggars of Russia; and he gives interesting accounts of his experiences in these countries also. The life of the habitual beggar and vagabond, it seems, is much easier and more prosperous in the United States than in England or Germany; Mr. Flynt reports a much higher standard of comfort and even of outward apparel. Police supervision is on the whole more effective in England and Germany than in the United States, but varies again in different parts of the United States, being more stringent, for instance, in Massachusetts than in the neighbouring states of New York and Pennsylvania. Whatever the degree of police activity, Mr. Flynt points out that it is hopeless to suppress habitual beggary as long as a mass of well-to-do people, and of the poor no less, will respond indiscriminately to appeals to their compassion. Such seems to be the disposition of the kind-hearted Germans; hence the continuance in Germany of professional vagabondage, notwithstanding a high degree of police vigilance. In the United States the nuisance is spread and maintained by the railways, whose lax management enables the tramps to transfer themselves over the wide continent with astounding ease. Mr. Flynt reports that a tramp may appear on Broadway in New York on one day, and two weeks thereafter may present himself in San Francisco. Like their betters, the tramps move with the seasons, and betake themselves southward in large numbers during the winter months. The common mode of transportation is in empty freight cars, blackmail being often

paid to the brakemen, at a price of something like ten cents per hundred miles. Where empty freight cars are not available, the tramps ride, incredible as it may seem, on the trucks under the body of the car. It is clear that regular inspection and policing of the railway trains would go far to abate the nuisance, to the gain alike of the public and of the railways. Mr. Flynt estimates that there are in the United States not less than sixty thousand tramps; a number which stringent police regulation could very easily reduce to much smaller dimensions.

While the tramp is usually distinct from the criminal, there is inevitable a constant contact between the two classes, and more or less transference from one to the other. The habitual criminal, after he has lost his nerve, becomes the comparatively harmless professional tramp. In his opening chapters, Mr. Flynt, as the outcome of his contact with the criminal class, comes to the conclusion that they are not physical, moral and mental degenerates, and that the criminological theories which rest on the assumption of abnormal or stunted development, are not in accord with the facts. The criminal is far from an irresponsible person. His general health is good, unless broken by confinement in prison. His education is not below the average, although he commonly deceives prison officials as to the extent of his attainments. In short, Mr. Flynt believes that he is "physically, mentally and morally responsible," and needs to be dealt with accordingly.

F. W. TAUSSIG

Bei Krupp. Eine Socialpolitische Reiseskizze. By Dr. W. KLEY.
(Leipzig: Dunkler und Humblot. 1899. Pp. 165.)

DR. W. KLEY'S visit to Essen, which he here describes, was chiefly with a view of studying the attempts made by the firm of Krupp to solve the housing problem for the large industrial colony which has sprung up round their works, but it has inspired him with the deepest admiration for everything that he found there, and not least for the personality of the founder of the firm, Alfred Krupp. This admiration has indeed led him into what we cannot help suspecting to be somewhat indiscriminating praise for all the arrangements made by the firm for their workpeople, and he is astonished at the ingratitude of the latter whenever they fail to take the same view; but still he certainly shows that the government of an industrial colony by a benevolent despotism at Essen is one of the most ambitious and also the most successful attempts of the kind which has ever been made.

At the beginning of 1899 the number of persons employed in different capacities by the firm of Krupp was no less than 41,750, and of these 25,133 were directly connected with the iron-works at Essen. As until 1844 there were less than 100 men employed in the works, and the whole population of the town amounted to about 7,000, it is evident that the question of housing the rapidly growing population must have presented serious difficulties. These, however, have from