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stand for what it is worth. Thus the essentials of manorial farming, the life and workmanship of the crafts are more important than the legal origin of the manor or the relation between gild merchant and craft merchant.

When we come to Chapter X.—“The Industrial Revolution”—Dr. Usher is first-rate. In Chapter XI. he shows how seafaring was the basis of England’s industrial strength; how the East India Company traded in cottons, buying them from India and selling them in the Spice Islands; how cottons in this way reached England; how we first tried our hand on the finishing stages, printing calico, weaving cotton yarns with home materials; how finally we established the cotton industry in Lancashire, where it has since remained on the strong triple foundation of (a) humid climate, (b) adjacent coal supply for power, and (c) accessibility *viâ* the port of Liverpool to the great cotton-growing area of the U.S.A. Chapter XIII.—“The Reorganisation of the Metal Trades”—is even better. The student can really understand what the Darbys did for iron smelting; what Cort did in his puddling furnace; how Watt’s steam engine was evolved; and the revolutionary change effected by Sir Henry Bessemer, when he made possible the mass-production of steel. In Chapters XVII. and XVIII. Dr. Usher is again on congenial soil (“The Development of Railways”), and, like every American, he knows how to write a sketch of combination and monopolies. Interspersed with these are some “social” chapters, which are accurate, but disjointed, and do not glow. Thus, in the last chapter, “Incomes, Wages, and Social Unrest,” we have Dr. Bowley’s wage estimates, a scrappy section on Chartism—rather out of place at this stage of the book; *after* Chartism a paragraph on the Dorsetshire labourers; and within eight pages some remarks on the Osborne judgment.

It is unfair to make this a matter of reproach to the author. We are but indicating the extreme difficulty of bringing all aspects of economics together in a compact narrative in due proportion. Dr. Usher’s maps, charts, and index are excellent.

C. R. FAY

India at the Death of Akbar: An Economic Study. By W. H. MORELAND. (Macmillan and Co. Price 12s. 6d.)

MR. MORELAND’S forte has hitherto been land revenue administration. His lectures to young officials in the United Provinces when he was Director of Land Records and Agriculture

are well known, while his *Revenue Administration of the United Provinces* and his *Agriculture of the United Provinces* show a capital grasp of a very technical subject. His paper in the *Journal of the United Provinces Historical Society* on "The Agricultural Statistics of Akbar's Empire," and that in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* on "The Value of Money at the Court of Akbar" are familiar to many students of Indian economic history. None of these works, however, can challenge in authority or in scholarly research "India at the Death of Akbar." This is his *magnum opus*, the fruits of a well-employed retirement.

The book opens with an account of the country and people about the year 1595. We are reminded that the Portuguese and some travellers of other nations who visited India at the zenith of Portuguese influence used "India" to mean the west coast and the land lying behind it, and not in the sense which the author uses—modern India, excluding Burma. We have a picture of the administration, the court, the civil service, and the various occupied classes. We see the faulty production of the period and the still more faulty distribution of wealth that prevailed. Producers were at the mercy of a government of officials, accustomed to extremes of luxury, and ever eager to squeeze for themselves the maximum out of the producer. An unnecessarily large number was occupied in official and domestic service or in religious pursuits, and an army lacking proper organisation and thorough training was always an unwieldy machine in the body politic. "A wealthy upper class," says Mr. Moreland, "may render substantial economic services if they use their wealth wisely and direct a steady flow of savings into productive channels, but there are no signs that such services were rendered in the India of Akbar's time, and where savings were accumulated they took the useless form of stores of gold and silver and gems. In the aggregate, a very substantial proportion of the income of the country was spent on waste and superfluities, the cost of which fell in the long run on the producing classes, the peasants, artisans, and merchants." The upper classes were small in numbers and included many foreigners. They were, all things considered, able to live much more luxuriously in Akbar's time than now. The middle classes seem, according to the author, to have occupied more or less the same economic position as at present. Their numbers, however, were proportionately small, and they were not an important section of the population. The lower classes were worse off than now. To the middle and upper classes a rupee was worth about

five rupees of the time just previous to the late war, possibly more, so long as they did not require the costly imported goods; to the classes between these and the poorest classes a rupee was worth about six rupees; and to the very poorest classes it was worth as much as seven rupees. For all ordinary comparisons Akbar's rupee might be taken as the equivalent of about six rupees of the modern currency.

Not even excepting Chapter IV., on "Agricultural Production," the best chapter in the whole book is Chapter VI., on "Commerce." It reads like a novel. Here we are dealing with a period when the Portuguese had wrested from Moslems the premier place on the Indian Seas. At the end of the sixteenth century there were signs of the weakening of Portuguese domination, and the Dutch and English were shortly to take its place. At the time of Akbar, for obvious reasons, we do not meet with the now familiar names of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi, or Rangoon, but with the Cambay ports (Surat, Broach, Cambay, Daman, and Diu), the Bengal ports (Satgaon-Hooghly, Sripur, and Chittagong), the Coromandel ports of Negapatam and Masulipatam. We notice also Lahari Bandar or Diul-Sind, Calicut, and Goa. We see the importance played by spices at a time when root crops in England were unknown to any extent; when, therefore, animals had to be killed for meat in summer and autumn, provision for the rest of the year being made by "powdering," which meant a large consumption of spices. In regard to the founding of the East India Company, Purchas, in *His Pilgrimes*, says: "The merchants of London, in the year of our Lord 1600, joined together and made a stock of seventy-two thousand pounds, to be employed in ships and merchandises, for the discovery of a trade in the East India, *to bring into the realm spices and other commodities.*"

Although the author gives a bibliography with references at the end of each chapter, one misses footnotes throughout the chapters as to the exact source or sources of some of the statements. Sometimes conclusions are reached on scanty data which, however, are used with ingenuity. We need only refer to the paragraphs on the volume of foreign commerce in Chapter VI., or, for example, the use of shoes by the common people on p. 277. One feels that Mr. Moreland has given too much information on matters dealt with in the *Ain*, and too little in regard to parts not covered by the *Ain*. Here we have a field for further research. It is sometimes forgotten that from the end of the sixteenth century to the present time there are three centuries of records,

more complete as time goes on. It is to be hoped that the author will consider the advisability of publishing a source book for the use of Indian economic students on the ground covered by the book under review. We commend also to the notice of the author the lack of a first-rate standard text of the *Ain-i Akbari*. No author could undertake the latter with greater sureness of touch than the author of *India at the Death of Akbar*, which is a stimulating text-book that should certainly be used in Universities where Indian economic history is taught.

G. FINDLAY SHIRRAS

Essays on Indian Economic Problems. By BRIJ NARAIN, M.A., Professor of Economics, Sanatan-Dharma College, Lahore. (Pp. 307. 1919.)

THE author is a professor of economics in one of the Hindu colleges in Lahore. The essays, some of which are published for the first time, form a useful collection of notes by a trained observer on economic questions of importance in connection with the future of India.

The first two deal effectively with the contention of some Indian writers that the postulates of Western economic science have little application to our great Eastern Dependency. To a large extent this is the view put forward in Professor Radhakamal Mukerjee's *Foundations of Indian Economics*, which was reviewed in a recent issue of THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL. Mr. Brij Narain's criticism of that work may be described as severe, but it is certainly pertinent.

The next eight essays discuss various questions connected with the rise of prices in India. Of the remaining papers four are concerned with currency problems, one with the bank rate in India during the war, and five with the expediency of adopting protection as a means of developing Indian manufactures.

The rise of prices had attracted attention in India before the war, and a Committee of Enquiry reported upon it in 1914. As regards causes, the author offers a choice among :

(a) Mr. Datta's view, included in the Committee's report, that the rise was largely due to the failure of cultivation to respond adequately to increase of demand,

(b) the opinion of the Indian Government that it was the result of world causes and the expansion of credit, and

(c) his own contention that it was brought about by a redundancy of currency springing from the measures adopted to maintain the rupee at 1s. 4d.

The Government rightly rejected Mr. Datta's explanation,