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over, there has further been set on foot an imperial scientific research centre "to provide for the investigation of new or little-known natural products from the Colonies and India, and of known products from new sources, with a view to their utilisation in commerce, and also to provide trustworthy scientific and technical advice on matters connected with the agriculture, trade, and industries of the Colonies and India." "The department," we are told, "is more and more becoming a clearing-house for information respecting the possibilities of the raw materials of the Empire for manufacturing purposes." Free Traders and Protectionists alike, we have indeed travelled far since John Bright resented laws against adulteration as an interference with the sacred principle of individualist competition.

The lectures were fitly introduced by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, in a discourse which admirably struck the note, followed by his successors, of careful avoidance of all party questions, a condition not too easy of fulfilment in a community where one commanding figure dominates the background. In this connection it is amusing to note that Mr. Griffith having expressed approval of the Canadian reciprocity agreement with the United States, a counterblast is given in the shape of Sir Edmund Walker's denunciation of reciprocity.

It only remains to add that the value of the volume is not a little increased by a careful bibliography of the statistics of the self-governing Dominions and of the West Indies. (It may be noted that the name of the French-Canadian statesman was Dorion, not "Dorrien," and that Bryan Edwards does not appear to have been knighted.)

H. E. EDGERTON

The Alien Problem and its Remedy. By M. J. LANDA.
(P. S. King & Son. 5s. net.)

JEALOUSY of the alien has not been, as is so often erroneously supposed, confined to this country or to the present day. In all countries and at all stages of civilisation the stranger has been treated as an intruder whose admission to the tribe or State was hedged in by a multitude of hostile regulations, whose activities were circumscribed by innumerable obstacles. And even when a foreigner had successfully surmounted the Chinese wall of national exclusiveness, he was still viewed with suspicion, lest he should, after all, prove that most hateful of all uninvited

visitors—a spy, or, at best, an unwelcome competitor who, to use a popular phrase, “took the bread out of the mouths” of the natives.

Naturally, this feeling has lingered longest in our country—an inevitable consequence of our insular position, so that long before anti-alien legislation found its way to the Statute Book the foreigner who came here to trade or settle was the victim of serious disabilities. Now and then, it is true, when the Government was anxious to plant some new industry in which we lagged behind the Continent, it did not hesitate to introduce Flemish weavers or German armourers, etc., into England. But this governmental action found no more support among the general population than did the more recent voluntary immigration from the East of Europe—a movement that culminated in the Aliens Act of 1905.

Mr. Landa's book is devoted to a survey of the agitation that preceded the enactment of the present Statute, an analysis of the report and evidence of the Commission appointed by Mr. Balfour's Government in 1902, an investigation into the administration of the Act itself, and some suggestions for dealing with the alleged evils of unrestricted immigration on the one hand, and the alleged failure of the Act on the other. Its author is a journalist who has made a minute and prolonged study of the question. He has attended the meetings of the Immigration Boards in a professional capacity, has visited the great Continental centres of the transmigrant traffic, such as Bremen, Rotterdam, and Hamburg, has travelled in Austria, Galicia, and Russia, and, above all, has an intimate acquaintance with the East End of London and the foreign quarters of some of our largest provincial cities.

In the first part of his book Mr. Landa has undertaken the Sisyphean task of destroying the fabric of false statistics and false economics with which even Cabinet ministers were not ashamed to defend the various Aliens Bills presented by them to Parliament. Thus it was repeatedly asserted that some 80,000 to 90,000 aliens were annually “dumped” on our shores. This figure was obtained “by coolly ignoring the statistics of the aliens who left the country, coupled with a superficial study of the monthly Alien lists.” For the latter error the Board of Trade is rightly held responsible. Despite the protests of all who wished to know the truth—and, happily, they were not a few—about the extent of the alien influx, the Board continued to issue its returns in a most complicated and grossly unscientific manner which,

if not deliberately calculated to mislead, at any rate lent fair colour to the wild statements and exaggerations by which certain politicians sought to frighten the public into accepting the nostrum they offered it.

By a careful examination of inward and outward movement of the population and a comparison with the figures of the last two Censuses (1891 and 1901), Mr. Landa has once more demonstrated what in fact was already well known to all students of the question, that the net annual influx scarcely exceeds 12,000.

Turning to the social aspects of the question as it affects the Borough of Stepney, where the majority of the aliens are congregated, we find that Mr. Landa has collected some interesting information relating to the number of empty houses in the borough, the loss of rates arising therefrom, and the number of prosecutions for overcrowding, all tending to the conclusion that the overcrowding evil was only temporary, and that it has long passed away. The abnormally high rents which once ruled in the Borough are long a thing of the past, and the latest figures—the Census of 1911—show a decrease in the population of Stepney of over 18,000.

Part II. of the book deals with the various remedies suggested for improving the Act of 1905, and includes a criticism of the two Bills—Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Goulding's—now before Parliament. To the proposal of the latter "that every alien subject to inspection under the Act of 1905 should be required to register his place of abode," our author replies that "registration in effect means nothing more nor less than the re-introduction of the passport system, and the essence of a passport system is that there shall be no exemptions"; in other words, Mr. Goulding would introduce a modified system of police supervision that would ultimately extend to all citizens, until we had approximated to some of the most objectionable Continental models. But perhaps the most suggestive portion of Mr. Landa's book is that which treats of the enormous emigration to the New World from Central and Eastern Europe. We regret that the scope of his subject has not allowed him to probe more deeply the causes that annually drive about a million inhabitants of the European mainland to brave the hardships that beset the "stranger in a strange land," and impel him to abandon his ancestral home, conquer all the forces that bind him to the land of his birth, and wander across the ocean in search of a new abode amidst alien surroundings, in a hostile environment. Some hint of the causes operating in this direction are contained in a few pregnant sentences that

conclude this valuable contribution to the literature of alien immigration. "Ticketed, labelled, watched from the cradle to the grave, marshalled through life in a condition bordering on serfdom, men are looked upon as nothing more than sacrifices to the Moloch of militarism. The various passport and registration systems do not exist for the purpose of detecting criminals or organising trade. The countries we are asked to copy have more alien criminals to contend with than have our police : the numbering, the guarding, and the checking at every step is done for the purpose of keeping every possible conscript perpetually under control. From that thralldom cramping all effort and destroying all hope, the best blood and bodily framework of European humanity is rushing to the New World and to freedom. It is revolt by emigration."

Altogether, this book should form a useful antidote to the "facts" scattered with a lavish hand by politicians seeking to make party capital out of the hapless alien.

A. WEINER

The Conflict of Colour. By B. L. PUTNAM WEALE. (Macmillan and Co. 1910. Pp. 340.)

IN this study of "world politics and world movements," Mr. Putnam Weale sets forth considerations which, he holds, should affect the Asiatic policy of England. But his arguments are based, not on the weight of ordnance in different armies, but on the weight of numbers in social evolution. Looming in the distance he sees the clash of conflicting civilisations, but he concentrates attention on the industrial struggle already being waged. And it is the conception of liberty as the guarantee of efficiency which directs his reasoning. It is the treatise of a publicist, but the weapons are those of an economist.

In a preliminary discourse, he outlines the history of representative government and of the balance of power as the safeguards, internal and external, of liberty in the development of European powers, so that he may gain an objective standpoint for contrasting the intra-European balance with the supremacy of Europe over Asia, which has resulted from the European conquest of the sea during the last four centuries. He adduces figures to show that "the white man, although to-day only half as numerous as the coloured man, is settled on a gross area of land more than twice as extensive as that owned by his coloured brother." At the same time, the standard of wages