

But this attention to the minutiae has opened to us an enormous mass of new material. In the last twenty years, thousands of volumes have been devoted to the elucidation of special topics. A few men of somewhat broader range have made use of these special theses and prepared scholarly works on certain phases or periods. Lamprecht is writing a great work, of which the fourth volume has just appeared, on the social history of Germany. Brunner and Schröder have rewritten the constitutional history. Winkelmann has thrown a flood of light on the Hohenstaufen period. Mühlbacher, Manitius, and many others might be mentioned. But the average student has needed a scholarly work which embraced, within reasonable compass, the most important results of all this erudition. Such has been Henderson's task.

We are already indebted to the author for a most serviceable volume of translations; and his labor in preparing that collection has fitted him for his larger work. His acquaintance with the leading sources has saved him from the errors which a less scholarly writer inevitably makes. In the present volume the material is judiciously chosen, the statements are accurate, and the proportion observed, good. The work is a valuable addition to our accessible material. It is by far the best history of Germany that we have.

As two more volumes are promised, some criticisms may be added. The style is faulty and unattractive; the proof-reading is careless; no uniform system is followed for the proper names. But we do not wish to emphasize defects in detail, as we feel sure that every competent teacher will advise his students to read this book.

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*An Introduction to the Philosophy of Herbert Spencer, with a Biographical Sketch.* By WILLIAM HENRY HUDSON. Pp. ix, 234. Price, \$1.25. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1894.

The author of this volume hopes to furnish "thoughtful and inquiring persons of broad outlook but limited leisure" an "outline map or hand guide" to the philosophy of Herbert Spencer. He has done this; and more. He has given students long familiar with Mr. Spencer's voluminous writings an exposition of the philosophic system expounded in them that is masterful and helpful both in the way of refreshing one's memory and in throwing new light on the development of Mr. Spencer's theories. The first two chapters, "Herbert Spencer: A Biographical Sketch" and "Spencer's Earlier Work—Preparation for the Synthetic Philosophy," are in themselves valuable

contributions to the history of the doctrine of evolution. Mr. Hudson shows conclusively that the distinction of first proclaiming this great hypothesis definitely and coherently and making its application universal belongs not to Darwin, but to Spencer. The "Sketch" does not give us as much *personalia* about the early career and private life of the synthetic philosopher as one would wish. His mental habits and characteristics and methods of work are only enlarged upon where they help to explain the peculiar origin and growth of some of his theories.

The outline of the "Spencerian Sociology" is an excellent example of the compact and suggestive treatment of the most important, and at the same time the most misunderstood and derided part of Mr. Spencer's system. Many will doubtless complain that there is not a fuller treatment of the subjects dealt with in Volume I of the Sociology. But Mr. Hudson chiefly aims in this chapter to show how and wherein his political doctrines fit in with his general system; to demonstrate that his individualism for which he is so universally condemned and at which many marvel, "so far from being artificially foisted on to the rest of his system, as some would have us believe, grows naturally out of and therefore properly belongs to it—is an organic part of his general doctrine of universal evolution." And he emphasizes what many, if not the majority, of the critics of the political philosophy of Mr. Spencer fail utterly in perceiving, viz., that the Spencerian State has great and comprehensive functions, positive as well as negative, and that "in its special sphere—the maintenance of equitable relations among the citizens—governmental action should be extended and elaborated."

Mr. Hudson would have done himself a substantial service toward gaining a speedier and firmer hold on those who may study his excellent introduction had he stated in his preface the fact that for several years he was privileged to enjoy intimate relations with Mr. Spencer, as his private secretary, living with him, seeing and hearing him, learning the man, his mind, and his theories at first hand. For on the title page of this work we learn that Mr. Hudson is associate professor of English literature at Leland Stanford Jr. University, and we are quite sure many will think that no matter how profound a student he may be of literature he is not thereby better, but is likely less, qualified to expound the philosophic system of such a subtle and comprehensive thinker as Mr. Spencer. Whereas, we have here an admirable, discerning and enlightening introduction to the Spencerian philosophy.

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