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and might easily be taken for copies. All the familiar problems and well-worn discussions of settlements and houses of correction, labour colonies and workhouses, out-relief and boarding-out, recur in the New World with much the same results as in the Old. But on two or three points we come across new developments. The question of settlements, for instance, has continued fruitful of difficulties in America far longer than in England, and has given rise, in conjunction with the system of local responsibility, to the class of State paupers who are supported out of a common fund, as having no claim upon any particular town or district. Interesting questions of administration and policy must, one would think, arise out of the existence of two distinct Poor-law agencies working over the same ground, especially when combined with such a highly organised body of charities as exists, *e.g.*, in Boston.

'State paupers' are an old institution in Massachusetts, having existed there since 1675; but in New York they would appear to have originated comparatively recently and in a very interesting manner. 'The first important disbursement of alms by the State was in the form of aid to the families of soldiers after the War of Independence;' then the State took under its care the class of slaves abandoned by their masters, and as this class disappeared it turned its attention to other members of the community suffering from special misfortune. The extension of school privileges to the deaf and dumb, the proper care of the insane and idiotic, and the subsidising of certain special institutions constituted the work of the State of New York in this direction until 1873, when a class of State paupers was formed on much the same lines as in Massachusetts.

The questions of alien immigration and 'contract-labour laws' are treated in America as closely akin to that of 'settlement,' hence the appropriateness of the appendices which quote the text of the law on these subjects.

HELEN BOSANQUET

Perils to British Trade. By EDWIN BURGIS. (London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. 1895.)

THE object of this book is to recommend the abandonment of unlimited Free Trade and the creation of an imperial customs union. It would have been more effective had the author trusted solely to his best arguments. For these arguments are stronger than the average free-trader will admit. Thus it is true that our example has not converted, and is not likely to convert, other nations to Free Trade. So long as we prospered under a system of Free Trade, foreigners were convinced that we wished to draw them into a hopeless competition. Now that we are less prosperous foreigners are apt to regard Free Trade as discredited. Again, we must admit with Mr. Burgis that Great Britain can never again expect to be the workshop of the world.

Other nations have now amassed too much skill and too much capital to allow of any such monopoly. We must admit that countries which have adhered to Protection have made surprising advances in industry and can often compete with English producers in English markets. We must admit that English agriculture has been all but ruined by a foreign competition which affects the price not of wheat alone but of every important kind of agricultural produce. We must admit that Free Trade has destroyed the force of the strongest motive of self-interest which drew the majority of the people of Ireland towards the British connection. So long as we adhere to Free Trade we can offer little material inducement to our Colonies to remain within the Empire, and we cannot extort any fiscal concessions from independent communities. It is quite possible that a statesman considering all these things might decide in favour of an imperial customs union. But the probable effect of any Protective system upon our commerce and industry demands much more exhaustive investigation than can be found in this book. It is true that statistics in order to be useful must be so copious that most people find them intolerable. Again, Mr. Burgis has mixed with real arguments much that is irrelevant. Unprincipled speculation and the production of unsound articles are at least as prevalent in countries which have adhered to Protection as in countries which have adopted Free Trade. The condition of the wage-earning class is notoriously better in Great Britain than in any of the neighbouring states. Their nominal wages are higher, their real wages are much higher, and their labour is far less severe in Great Britain than in Germany. Nor is there any use in bandying charges of selfishness between Free Traders and Protectionists. Everybody knows that in this controversy men are guided by what they suppose to be their own interest or the interest of their country. Lastly, Mr. Burgis is sadly lacking in that simplicity which is appropriate to the discussion of business. As one instance take the following: 'The tide is on the turn; for the situation is so transparent that it is obvious that before long the sweeping brush will be applied to our chaotic fiscal arrangements, and root and branch they will be cleared away (p. 154).'

F. C. MONTAGUE

The Coming Individualism. By A. EGMONT HAKE and O. E. WESSLAU. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co., 1895.)

CARLYLE has well said: 'Man is not a happy animal; his appetite for sweet victual is so enormous.' And since civilisation does so much more to sharpen the appetite than to multiply the victuals it is very probable that, the more civilised men become, the less happy they feel. Only in this way can we account for the copious literature which treats of the coming this and the future that, of the palace of delights five doors further on or the Elysian fields at the second turn on the left