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Report on the English Birth-Rate. Part 1. England North of the Humber by Ethel M. Elderton
Review by: M. G.

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that of 1897 and trebled again in 1899, sinking in the following year. Careful examination showed no increase in mercury production during the years 1898-99 to account for the rise, and the explanation proved to be the following: In 1898 a new medical officer was appointed as assistant to the old one. The latter censored the notifications—returning indeed fewer cases on behalf both of his colleague and himself than did the latter on his own account. In 1899 the new medical officer was in sole charge, and returned every case of gastritis and enteritis as due to mercury poisoning. Subsequently he modified his views, returning only moderate or severe cases as due to mercury, while the mild cases dropped out of the notification lists altogether. Further, after 1899, the physician seems to have returned slight cases of mercurialism as neuralgia, the notifications of which were few in 1899 and 1900 but increased rapidly thereafter. We think this section of Dr. Teleky's book will be of much value to the student of foreign sickness insurance records.

The English reader who entertains the belief that German is a cumbrous language, prone to lengthy and involved sentences difficult and wearisome to construe, will not be induced by a perusal of Dr. Teleky's flowing periods to change his opinion. M.G.

5.—*Report on the English Birth-rate.* Part 1. *England North of the Humber.* By Ethel M. Elderton. viii + 246 pp., 4to. London: Dulau and Co., 1914. Price 9s. net.

The plan of this work is to pass in review all the English registration counties north of the Humber and their constituent units. Changes in the birth-rate are shown diagrammatically and with the aid of statistical coefficients, and a comparison between the actual birth-rate and the potential fertility of the district, estimated by Tait's method, is provided. Statistics of housing and industry are generally given, together with verbal accounts of the conditions furnished by local correspondents. In the concluding sections, the relation between the fall of the birth-rate and industrial or social changes are studied. Miss Elderton's general conclusions as to the cause of the declining birth-rate are in agreement with those usually drawn from the evidence provided in the recent reports of the Registrar-General. Her detailed inferences and suggestions have also been foreshadowed in various publications by her colleagues and herself. The work, which must have involved an enormous amount of labour, is a solid contribution to the literature of social statistics, and should be in the hands of all students.

M.G.

6.—*Modern Instruments and Methods of Calculation; a handbook of the Napier Tercentenary Exhibition.* Edited by E. M. Horsburgh, M.A., B.Sc., Assoc.M.Inst.C.E. 343 pp., 1s. 8vo. London: G. Bell and Sons, 1914. Price 6s. net.

The tercentenary of the publication, in 1614, of Napier's *Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio*, was celebrated at