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physical conditions of over 700 men and women of 80 years of age and upwards in Viennese institutions. From this inquiry the author draws the conclusion that the factors conducive to long life are legitimacy of birth, healthy and long-lived parents and grandparents, nourishment at the breast in early infancy, moderation and regularity in living, and active employment to the latest possible age. He also infers that length of life is more or less independent of poverty or wealth as such, of town or country upbringing, and of trouble and sickness if the temperament be happy and serene. A moderate amount of tobacco and alcohol appears to be harmless. One may suggest that conclusions drawn from a study of octogenarian survivors alone need to be checked by the observation of a large number of persons throughout life before those conclusions can be accepted as well established.

Having investigated in Chapter III the conditions of long life, the author devotes Chapter IV to a consideration of its value. In this chapter Dr. Biedert discusses the subject somewhat from a medical point of view, and Dr. Leon Zeitlin seeks to evaluate, on the one hand, the loss arising from excessive mortality, and, on the other, the gain accruing from the lengthening of life. To the numerous problems raised in this chapter it is sought to give quantitative solutions. These are ingenious and interesting. But, since many of the factors that go to make a human life valuable, even from the economic aspect, are not capable of reduction to numerical terms, too much importance should not be attached to the results of such calculations.

Chapter V deals with the mortality of pensioners and other persons living in retirement, and contains essays by Dr. H. Westergaard and Dr. J. Rahts. The general conclusions of the chapter tend to show, what is perhaps not altogether unexpected *a priori*, that the cessation of work may mean the shortening of life, and that early retirement from work is not always good. The sixth chapter gives a retrospect, and the final chapter a summary of the steps that might be taken by the State and society to extend the length of human life.

The book is highly suggestive. It emphasises the desirability of lengthening the working period—the economically productive period—of life, and urges that the State should, from the cradle to the grave, do as much as possible to maintain the health and efficiency of its citizens, rather than wait for their premature breakdown and retirement before attempting to aid them. How far the State should proceed in this direction is a question on which much diversity of opinion must prevail.

A.D.W.

5.—*Précis du cours de statistique générale et appliquée*. Par Armand Julin. 2^e Edition. Avec une préface par M. A. de Foville. xii + 242 pp., 8vo. Bruxelles: Misch and Thron; and Paris: Marcel Rivière, 1910.

The course of statistics here presented is elementary and non-mathematical. M. A. de Foville has contributed a short introduction, in which he describes statistics as being “to economic and social

meteorology what the barometer is to physical meteorology," and in which he dwells on the necessity of statistics to statesmen, merchants and other persons. The author, M. Julin, without engaging in a discussion as to whether statistics is a science or only a method, proceeds at once in his opening chapter to the definition that "Statistics is the science which by calculation arrives at a knowledge of the character of human societies, and the object of which is the study of the mass by means of an enumeration of the units which compose it." Outside the study of human society statistics is regarded as a method. Not quite half the book is then devoted to the consideration of certain aspects of the theory of statistics or to "general statistics," and the remainder to the art of statistics or "applied statistics." The chapters dealing with "general statistics" are concerned with the definition and limits of the science, and with the general principles governing the collection, examination, compilation, explanation and interpretation of numerical data or observations. The treatment is descriptive, and there is occasionally a tendency to make nominal rather than real distinctions. The mathematical side of statistics is left severely alone. The methods of fitting observations to curves of error, and of interpolation, and the theories of sampling and correlation are not discussed.

The second part of the book, which deals with practical statistics, though in many respects very cursory, contains a useful description and critique of some important bodies of statistics. Industrial censuses, statistics of agriculture, foreign commerce, transport and prices are examined as to their origin, scope and meaning, in some cases briefly, in others more in detail, and the main difficulties in their interpretation and use are indicated.

Speaking generally, the book may be commended to persons who desire to equip themselves with a few guiding principles in the handling of numerical data, and who require to know the main features of certain important published statistics. But it does not meet the need of those who wish to study the mathematical theory and methods of the subject. It should be mentioned that to each chapter is appended a short list of the principal authorities on the matters dealt with in the several chapters. A.D.W.

6.—*La Concentration Industrielle et Commerciale en Angleterre.* Par Léon Sénéchal. xxviii + 240 pp., 8vo. Paris: Société des Publications Scientifiques et Industrielles, 1909.

The tendency to combination in industrial and trading enterprise has recently attracted the attention of economists in many countries. In the latest text-books it is now customary to devote a section or a chapter to this new development of business methods; and theory has shown its sensibility to the shaping influence of the environment of fact, amid which it has been conceived and is systematised, by endeavours more and more resolutely undertaken, and less and less imperfectly achieved, to formulate the principles which are likely to inspire and direct the action of monopolists turning to the best account the bargaining strength which they derive from combination.