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Kingdom, would find a historical and practical description here. Since so much turns on questions of definition, or rather of delimitation, in comparative statistics, and since it is in general so difficult to know exactly what is included under a simple designation in unfamiliar statistics, it is clear that the book has some use for a wide field of readers. It is to be regretted that neither the actual budgets nor tables of the yield of separate taxes are included. The discussion of local taxes only occupies 29 pages, all the several States of the United States of America being dismissed in four; this treatment is clearly inadequate.

A.L.B.

17.—*Die Weltwirtschaft : ein Jahr- und Lesebuch : unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachleute.* Herausgegeben von Dr. Ernst von Halle, Professor an der Universität Berlin. I. Jahrgang 1906. I. Teil: *Internationale Uebersichten*, viii + 366 pp. II. Teil: *Deutschland*, vi + 253 pp. III. Teil: *Das Ausland*, vi + 281 pp. Imperial 8vo. Berlin: Teubner, 1906. Price 12 marks.

It is the intention of the editor of this year book to provide a general survey of the industry, trade, and commerce of the world. By a careful selection and co-ordination of the more important facts and figures, the endeavour has been made to make the volume, not a mere statistical almanac, but readable and interesting. It is intended to exhibit the relations between the facts described, and to give "a picture of the entire web which the labour of millions has woven during the past year on the roaring loom of Time."

Such a survey can be carried out on two plans, according to countries, or according to the different divisions of industry. A survey on the former plan is necessary to exhibit the varying development of each separate nation, whilst the second is essential in order to bring out the relations between the different states. As the latter type of survey gives the wider and more general view, it is rightly given in the first Part of the volume; Part II gives the special survey for Germany, and Part III the similar surveys for other countries of the world. The data, for the most part, refer to 1905.

The international surveys in the first part are carried out in nineteen articles or chapters by different authors having special knowledge of each subject. The three introductory chapters are on politics — "Weltpolitik," "Weltwirtschaftspolitik" (tariffs, treaties and agreements affecting trade, &c.), and "Weltsocial politik" (movements affecting the working classes, housing and temperance reform, &c.). These are followed by two chapters on agricultural production and the production of the raw materials of industry, and four on the money market. We have then a brief survey of international trade, and three articles on transport and communications, the remainder dealing with insurance, the finances of the European and principal extra-European states, technology the industrial arts, the poor (legislation and movements affecting the poor, charitable organisations, the problem of unemployment, &c.), and "Wirtschaftsrecht," i.e., the legislation affecting the

internal trade of each country, as distinct from that affecting the international trade which was dealt with in the earlier article on "Weltwirtschaftspolitik." We have read several of the articles with considerable interest, and they appear to us to give useful summaries. It would be very desirable, however, especially in a year book intended for those who are not specialists, to do something towards a conversion of the tables to a uniform system of units. It is bewildering, for example, in the article on agricultural production, to keep passing from hectares to acres and from bushels and quarters to metric tons. Very few references are given in most chapters, and these might in future be made a little more complete for the sake of those who wish to refer to original sources.

The second part of the year book is, as we have stated, devoted entirely to Germany, with chapters on politics, agriculture, manufactures (treated in considerable detail, with chapters on each of the more important industries by specialists), building trades, internal waterways, banking and the money market, the labour market, industrial organisations, and foreign trade. Other countries are treated in less detail in Part III. Mr. Hewins has been entrusted with the article on the British Empire, and gives, wherever possible, comparative statistics for a series of years; the article is, in fact, of distinctly a more historical tone than most. In general this is an advantage, but it is carrying the historical principle too far to give in such an article an introduction attributing the imperfections of our statistical organisation to the influence of "theoretical" conceptions and of the doctrine of *laissez faire*. The United States are treated very briefly but clearly in a series of curt summaries with an introduction by Dr. H. C. Emery. Each of the larger States of Europe has a chapter to itself, and the volume concludes with chapters on the Balkan States and Turkey, East Asia, and South America. The articles seem to vary a good deal in scope and arrangement, and it would be well if greater uniformity could be secured in this respect. Each part is pagged separately and provided with an index.

Our general impression of the work is that the first part is likely to prove by far the most useful to the student. It is not a very difficult matter, if one has to do it, to obtain such information as is given in Parts II and III concerning the majority of the States there dealt with, but the international comparisons of the first part and the survey there given of the industrial movement of the world have not, so far as we are aware, their counterpart in any other volume. If the work could be lightened and rendered somewhat less costly by a compression of the last two parts, we believe it would be an advantage.

G.U.Y.

18.—*La Russie Agricole devant la crise agraire*. Par Alexis Yermoloff. 350 pp., sm. 4to. Paris: Hachett and Co., 1907.

When ex-Ministers of Agriculture write an exposition on the agricultural position and agrarian politics of their own countries their labours command an attention among ordinary agricultural