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Modern Methods of Charity by Charles Richmond Henderson

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Poverty. BY ROBERT HUNTER. (New York: The Macmillan Co. Pp. ix, 382.)

It is difficult to estimate the value of this book. It is largely declamatory, and deals freely in quotations from Ruskin, Carlyle, Morris, Rountree (*sic*), Booth, and Hobson; a curiously significant conjunction of prophets and statisticians. It borrows, and once more misinterprets, the inevitable 30 per cent., and Mr. "Rountree's" "startling probabilities" and sensational description of the men who must write no letters to absent children are practically made the text of the opening chapter. There are other indications that the author has taken little trouble to understand English conditions before writing of them.

On the other hand, it is arguable that declamations have a function to perform in arousing public attention to neglected duties; while there is no doubt that in describing conditions with which he is personally familiar the author walks with a much surer foot. The evils of insanitary conditions in large cities, of child labour, of insufficient and unequal factory legislation, the problems peculiar to America, which are due to an enormous immigration, and to differing legislation in different States: all these are put forcibly and clearly before the reader, together with some practical suggestions for the remedies.

HELEN BOSANQUET

Modern Methods of Charity. By CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON, assisted by others. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. Pp. xiv, 715.)

So far as I know this is the most comprehensive and detailed study of modern methods of charity existing; the only similar piece of work being the "History of Charity," in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which is, unfortunately, hardly available to the ordinary reader. It is really more than its title conveys, as it contains a careful, though necessarily brief, study of the development of the present condition in the different countries dealt with, as well as a description of modern methods. Moreover, the author includes under the term Charity both systems of State Relief and such institutions as the Friendly Societies of Great Britain. As he covers no less than eleven countries, in addition to the British Empire (of which the different members are dealt with in six separate chapters), and devotes a special chapter to the study of Jewish Charities, it will be seen that the scope of the work is a very wide one. So far as I have been able to test

it, it has been excellently carried out. In the Preface we are told that "the attempt has been made to represent facts without bias, yet with careful selection of phenomena which seem to be really significant and decisive," and the author is to be congratulated on the success of his attempt. The book is remarkable for its careful moderation of statement, which, combined with its wealth of knowledge, makes it invaluable to all students of social economics.

There are numerous references to authorities throughout, and a bibliography which will enable the reader to carry further his investigations in any desired direction.

HELEN BOSANQUET

Industrial Co-operation. The Story of a Peaceful Revolution. Being an Account of the History, Theory, and Practice of the Co-operative Movement in Great Britain and Ireland. Prepared for the Co-operative Union by the Southern Co-operative Education Association. Edited by CATHERINE WEBB, with a Preface by L. L. PRICE, M.A. (Manchester : Co-operative Union, 1904.)

MR. PRICE'S Preface is really a review of the book itself, and his praises of it seem well deserved. Though it was prepared in the first place as a text-book for the examinations held by the Co-operative Union, it is instructive to all and sundry who wish to know what working men's Co-operation means. The older text-books of Hughes and Neale, Acland and Jones, were becoming too old; and, even when supplemented by the Histories of Holyoake and Jones, and the more searchingly critical "Co-operative Movement" of Miss Potter, they could not easily do for us what Miss Catherine Webb has succeeded in doing in this volume. She has made it possible for one who is a stranger to the Co-operative world to apprehend, by reading little more than two hundred pages, what is the meaning and what are the general aims of workmen's co-operative stores and workshops, what is their present position, and what are their prospects; what is their history, and what their literature. There is no excessive load of figures and details; but the most important of both are given. As the authoress confesses, there is a certain amount of overlapping and repetition between section and section. One reason of this is very much to her credit. Not being herself a convert to Labour Co-partnership, she employed the pen of a well-known advocate of it to write of its rise and progress. When all is said,