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Review

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but it may perhaps represent an attempt to measure by a statistical estimate his indirect influence. This was very great, but it may be doubted whether Coke can be regarded as the "greatest name of all" among agriculturists. His work in the diffusion of sound principles and their practical application was second to none, but to Jethro Tull and Robert Bakewell belong the distinction of laying down the principles. Mr. Marriott makes free but somewhat indiscriminate use of statistics, some of those he quotes being of doubtful validity. But on the whole he has given in a handy compass an admirable statement of the salient facts of the land problem.

R.H.R.

12.—*The relations of capital and labour.* By W. T. Layton. 264 pp., 8vo. London: Collins (The Nation's Library), 1914. Price 1s. net.

This is one of the best popular books that has appeared on the relations between capital and labour. It is popular in the best sense—not in the sense that it is fugitive and truckles to popular prejudice, but in the sense that it keeps throughout on the level of the non-expert reader (though on that level the argument is as thorough-going as it is possible to make it), and avoids what the ordinary man would condemn as "academic." Moreover, the style is easy and clear. The theory of wages is followed by some statistical support based on the movements of wages and interest over a lengthy period. Cost of living also receives ample notice, and the author then concentrates on the practical problems of collective bargaining, arbitration and conciliation, sliding-scales, profit-sharing, strikes, and so forth. In summing up as regards industrial policy, Mr. Layton emphasises (with Mr. Hartley Withers in his recent book) the harmful effects of luxury in keeping capital from productive uses, and urges the need of a greater equalising of opportunities and of requiring reliable information as regards the earnings of businesses. With respect to labour disputes, the policy of the Canadian Act in providing for impartial investigation is approved. Many of the conclusions are tentative, as the author holds that experience has yet to test rival theories in not a few cases; and some questions have had to be dismissed with little more than a statement of opposing views; but the book is quite courageously outspoken when the author has made up his mind, though one-sided judgment is noticeable by its absence. There are naturally points where disagreement may be expected. For instance, the statement may be questioned that the marginal theory of wages "holds good if competition "works out in detail in one industry" (p. 25), unless the author's meaning is misunderstood. If the marginal worth of labour is nowhere discoverable but in the tin-plate industry, is it not putting a severe strain upon common-sense to maintain that wages throughout England are really determined by the marginal worth of labour in the tin-plate industry? The book may be unreservedly recommended both to employers and employed. S.J.C.