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was scarce and greatly needed for agriculture, manufacturing industry could hardly have been carried on at all without the aid of women and children. There was also at this time no social prejudice against the factory, and the Lowell mills in particular, as is well known, were resorted to by young women of good character and education. Miss Abbott lays much stress on this condition of public opinion in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, in order to emphasise the fact that the modern woman worker is not, as is often assumed, "an invader threatening to take over work which belongs to men by custom and prior right of occupation." She also gives statistics in Appendix B (p. 352) showing that the proportion of women in the total of persons employed is tending, and has for a considerable period tended, to fall rather than to rise. The book will be of great interest to all who are concerned with the problems of women's life and work. B.L.H.

14.—*Women and the trades*, Pittsburgh, 1907-08. By Eliz. B. Butler. The Pittsburgh Survey, Findings in 6 volumes. Edited by P. U. Kellogg. 8vo. New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1909.

In England, several works of this description have appeared in the last few years, in response to the growing sense of the communal importance of conditions of life and work, but none, perhaps, has been carried out with quite such masterly thoroughness as the present work. The plan of the Pittsburgh Survey is to complete in six volumes "a careful and fairly comprehensive study of the conditions under which working people live and labour in a great industrial city, and a fair public statement of facts discovered." The present, which appears to be the first volume of the series, is concerned with the circumstances of women's employment. Pittsburgh is not primarily a city of women's trades, such as a Lancashire textile town. It is as if we were to ask for a study of women's employment in Wolverhampton or Barrow-in-Furness. The inquiry reveals that in a city whose prosperity is founded on steel, iron, and coal, and whose characteristic occupations could not possibly be exercised by women—women stand beside the men in many workshops; and this, not only in the garment factories, confectionery factories, and canneries, where women are only carrying on their traditional occupations under changed conditions, but in the metal trades themselves. Thus, in the foundries, women are employed in the manufacture of cores. "They are employed irrespective of the kind of foundry, so long as the work is not too heavy or too intricate for them to handle." A line of cleavage separates the work of men from that of women. The heavy work, the cores of intricate design that require long training and craftsman's skill, are made by men. Women are used for the simpler, more obvious things—for the stock shapes of cores, which can be learned in a few weeks. In the more difficult branches there is no active competition between men and women, but there is "potentially," Miss Butler tells us, some competition, in so far as the small work, now given

over to women, was once men's work. The women are doing the work at half the price of unorganised, and at a third the price of organised men. These observations are probably typical of a great deal of metal work done by women, not only in America, but in England.

A great deal of information is given as to wages, and a summary on p. 338 shows the percentage of women earning, in wage groups (p. 338):—

Unpaid apprentices.	\$3 to \$6.99.	\$7 to \$7.99.	\$8 or over.	Total.
0.97	60.83	20.85	17.35	100

The scale must not be judged by English standards, for not only is living more costly, but apparently the standard of living is higher than in England. It is stated, as the result of comparing various estimates (p. 346), that the *minimum* below which a working girl cannot work and support herself decently in Pittsburgh, is \$7 a week. Even if a girl shares a room with a friend, board and lodging costs from \$4.50 to \$5 a week; clothing about \$2; which at best leaves only 50 cents for washing, recreation, medical care, and sundries. It is obvious that if these estimates be taken as correct, the majority of the girls working are not earning a living wage. The estimate for clothes may appear high, but we are told that "in every position, the clothing of the applicant is of increasing importance," and a poorly dressed girl may be refused a place even in a mill, where the nature of the work does not seem to demand, or even admit of, a high standard of refinement. But neatness, cleanliness, and, within limits, good clothes, are an indication of self-control and self-respect, and as such are perhaps more closely connected with industrial efficiency than might at first appear.

In regard to conditions as to health, Miss Butler has much that is weighty and thoughtful to say. The health of the worker is now recognised to be a social asset; it is for the sake not merely of the individual but of the community that laws are enacted and rules enforced for the maintenance of healthy conditions. But so new, comparatively, are considerations of this kind, that only in a few of the best factories is there any approach to a really scientific observance of such conditions as to ventilation, light, warmth, &c., as will serve to promote a high standard of health and efficiency. The provisions of the factory law, Miss Butler thinks, are too general, and fail to cope with the trade dangers characteristic of particular occupations; *e.g.*, a specially dusty trade needs a specially high standard of ventilation. She is also impressed by the need of planning and building works and factories with regard to the nature of the work it is intended to carry on. A third factor appears to her of extreme importance, and this is the practice of "speeding." The workers' pace is kept high by the speed of the machinery, and more than this, among hand-workers and workers who control their machines, systems of pace-setting are combined with piece-rate

payments to keep up the speed. In several "stogy," or, as we should say, tobacco works, the girl-rollers are stimulated to the highest possible speed by the use of a sliding scale, under which they are paid \$13½ per 100 when 400 stogies are rolled from 1 lb., but only \$10 when 300 are rolled. "The nervous strain under these conditions has no inconsiderable share in causing positive breakdown." (P. 366.) "Women and the trades" ought to find a place on the shelves of every public library, and in the libraries of manufacturers and of all students of industrial conditions. It is to be hoped that it will stimulate the production of studies equally thorough and comprehensive in our own country. B.L.H.

15.—*Modern Tariff History. Germany, United States, France.* By Percy Ashley. Second edition, x + 447 pp., 8vo. London: John Murray, 1910. Price 10s. 6d. net.

In the interval since the first edition of this book, a notice of which appeared in the *Journal* for March, 1905, "Tariff History" has not stood still; and three chapters have been added, one to each of the three sections of the work, dealing respectively with the Commercial Treaties and the New Conventional Tariff of Germany of 1906, with the United States Tariff of 1908, and with the French Tariff of 1910. A few fresh pages, bringing the history of economic progress in America down to 1908, have also been incorporated in a previous chapter of the second part, and the bibliography appended to all three portions has been enlarged by the inclusion of literature (mainly of the nature of official publications) issued subsequently to the first edition. The whole work has, as Mr. Ashley tells us in his Prefatory Note, been revised, minor errors have been corrected, the statistics re-cast and extended, the narrative in the text made more complete, and the references in the footnotes augmented. The book, indeed, without losing any of the characteristics which we ventured formerly to commend to the favour of its readers, has been improved; and it is gratifying that the recognition of its many considerable merits has created a demand for this new edition.

It may be pardonable to regard as an improvement a change which the author himself has not noted; for Mr. Haldane's Preface, with which the work was introduced in 1904, is not reprinted in the present issue. We do not, of course, wish to be misunderstood; but at the time we felt as we do now, that the impartiality at which Mr. Ashley himself had aimed (even if, like all writers of strong and clear convictions, he could not keep his mind entirely free from predisposing bias), was much less conspicuously shown in the preface. Nor could we reasonably hope for so impossible an achievement in the pointed moral drawn in that Introduction by an able but avowed protagonist of the fiscal controversy, then as now being waged between active politicians. Interesting and acute as those preliminary observations could not fail to be, the permanent value of Mr. Ashley's work is certainly enhanced rather than diminished by the omission of occasional polemics; and it is to the class of more enduring contributions