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sonnes, foreseeing and prepared for death. The King entertaynes him lovingly : but after a little tyme, sitting drinking with the youngest sonne of the Duke, that lived and was brought up with him att Court, hee caused the Dukes head with his two sonnes to be struck off and brought in before him, and demaunds of the young gentleman if hee knew these heads. Hee (deprived of his witts and memory by wyne) made answer 'No' : and, wisht by the King to peruse them more advisedly, could make no other answer but 'No.' The King then called for a bowl of wyne and, casting it on their heads, uttered these words : ' They drank wyne while they liv'd ; lett them drinke now they are dead ' ; and so sent forth the sonnes to know who they were in the next world or never " (pp. 294-5).

Economic material does not often provide the dramatic. How many companies to-day receive letters in which their agents could tell a story as Captain Weddell does ?

C. GRANT ROBERTSON

Norwich : A Social Study. By C. B. HAWKINS. (London : Philip Lee Warner, 1910. Pp. x + 326.)

THIS is a businesslike study, based on direct observation and accessible figures, of a city with a great economic past and a present of marked characteristics. "The one great town of East Anglia" is affected in various ways by its isolation amid a wide rural area—labour moves out of it slowly, the half-rural casual moves into it too readily. The economic consequences of a huge cattle market, with its drovers provide problems of their own ; the transition in the boot industry (one of those which came in the 'forties to relieve the tragedy of the decay of the ancient textile manufacture) from the stage of the garret-master to that of the factory is of general interest ; and it is useful to have some first-hand knowledge of the conditions under which much of the world's mustard, starch, and blue are produced. Among the textiles small and diminishing remnants of silk and hair-cloth alone survive—features of antiquarian interest only in a town which lives mainly (besides boots and mustard) on chocolate, mineral waters, and marketing, with some ready-made clothing, engineering, printing, cabinet making, and breeding of canaries, in bedrooms as a rule it would seem. A town of "low wages, low rents, and good housing" ; full of ancient charities, which one is glad to find appear less demoralising than is commonly thought, and unduly given to doles ; a town with problems and experience in unemployment relief and boy-labour not differing widely

from the normal ; a town of very varied religious activities, whose social significance is here described somewhat from the standpoint of the superior person ; a bigger town than you might suppose (from 110,000 to 120,000), which protests in the preface, through its Dean, that it is not "as some of the small cathedral cities" ; the sort of town which those who think hurriedly of economic England are apt to forget, and of which it is therefore good to be reminded by a careful bit of work such as this, intended primarily for Norwich folk, who are not likely to forget.

J. H. CLAPHAM

The History of Wages in the Cotton Trade during the Past Hundred Years. By GEORGE HENRY WOOD, Guy Silver Medallist of the Royal Statistical Society. (London and Manchester : Sherratt and Hughes, 1910. Pp. 162. 3s. net.)

THE statistical materials with which Mr. Wood has had to deal are far from perfect. The requisite continuity is apt to be wanting in the older price lists. But Mr. Wood has been successful in largely filling up gaps in the record so as to present a fairly consecutive account of the hundred years which he has chosen as the period of his review. The labour involved has evidently been immense, and the record may be expected to furnish a very useful basis for future investigators. As one commentator has described it, the task seemed like an effort to bring order out of chaos. Mr. Wood's experience of Lancashire, and his knowledge of the cotton industry there, have made him peculiarly suitable for the work undertaken.

It is impossible within our limits adequately to describe Mr. Wood's methods and results ; we confine ourselves to noticing some salient features of the work.

A point of some importance in regard to the general progress is the question of half-timers, as it is called. The system has always had much the character of a mere compromise which might prove convenient, and it is a matter for argument whether it may not prove a weak solution in an economic sense in the long run, and whether a more definite solution would not have been a far better one as regards the industry itself as a whole.

According to a graphic diagram, included in Mr. Wood's volume, the general wages of all operatives in the cotton industry appeared at the end of the nineteenth century to have about practically the same level as at the beginning, notwithstanding