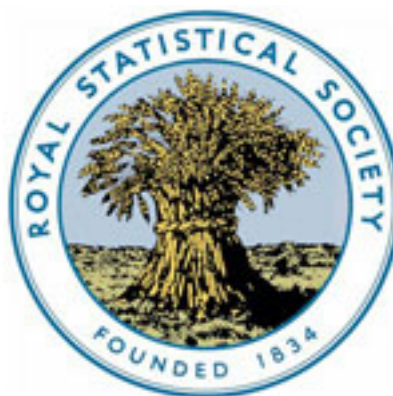


WILEY



Essays in Eugenics by Francis Galton

Review by: D. H.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol. 73, No. 3 (Mar., 1910), p. 339

Published by: [Wiley](#) for the [Royal Statistical Society](#)

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of recorded fact. Perhaps no chapter, however, in the book is more characteristic of the bent and capacity of the author than that entitled "Prophecies," in which the assured predictions of Free Traders are confronted with their ascertained non-fulfilment. It will be evident from the summary account which we have given that Sir Guilford Molesworth makes no pretence to immunity from bias; that he is troubled by no squeamish anxiety to spare those whom he criticises any portion of the blame which in his opinion they have richly earned; and that he thinks as he writes with all the polemical vigour and convinced determination of an eager controversialist. Nevertheless, while he may confirm Tariff Reformers in the faith they have embraced, he is not an assailant whom Free Traders can afford to leave alone or will easily thrust aside. He knows, as we have said, the weak spots in their defences, and he addresses a direct onslaught with remorseless energy against those places. And, although he might be accused of taking his readers from one point to another of an extensive area and to be guilty in the process of some repetition of his views, he yet contrives by the enthusiasm he commands and the assurance he instils to arouse and retain a vivid interest in the arguments which he advances in succession. His book is certainly an animated contribution to the fiscal controversy which will receive, and will deserve, attention.

L.L.P.

5.—*Essays in Eugenics*. By Sir Francis Galton, F.R.S. ii + 109 pp. London: The Eugenics Education Society, 1909. Price 1s. 6d.

In this volume the Eugenics Education Society has reprinted seven essays on Eugenics by Sir Francis Galton in order to show something of the progress of Eugenics during the last few years, and to explain the views of the founder of Eugenics upon its aims and methods. The essays are arranged in chronological order, and begin with the Huxley Lecture of 1901, delivered before the Anthropological Institute, in which Sir Francis Galton deals with the distribution and descent of ability, the possibility of the issue of diplomas for civic worth, and the correlation between promise in youth and subsequent performance, since worked out by Schuster and published as a Galton Eugenics Memoir. Then follow four Papers read before the Sociological Society, "Eugenics, its Definition, Scope and Aims"; "Restrictions in Marriage"; "Studies in National Eugenics"; and "Eugenics as a Factor in Religion." The reprinting of the Herbert Spencer for 1907, "Probability, the Foundation of Eugenics," is welcome. It gives an interesting account of the history of Eugenics and a simple description, aided by useful diagrams, of the principles on which modern statistical methods are based. The volume concludes with a Paper on "Local Associations for Promoting Eugenics."

Altogether, the volume supplies a decided want, and will be found useful to all who are interested in this new science. D.H.