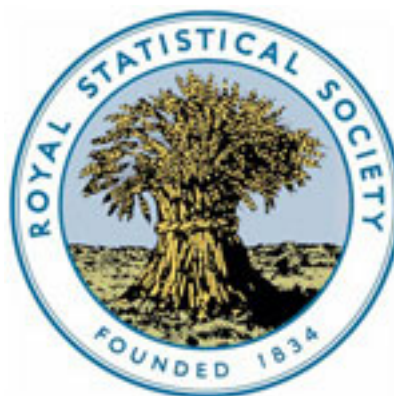


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Deutschlands Kulturausgaben by Ludwig Sevin

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of social investigation has been accomplished. The Verband is to be congratulated on its energy and enterprise, and Dr. Günther on the material placed at his disposal and the use made of it. We could wish that the investigation had been extended from the income to the expenditure of the members, at least in its broad outlines; though we recognise the difficulty of such an undertaking, the nature and extent of the response to the Verband's inquiries lead us to believe that an addition to the forms for that purpose would have yielded valuable results. Apart from this, our only criticism is that the tables and commentary are so elaborate, Dr. Günther's investigations are so thorough, his ingenuity in combining groups of data so great, and his scientific caution in formulating results so pronounced, that it is very difficult (perhaps properly so) for the reader to disentangle any definite conclusions; and we have some doubt whether this report, valuable as it is to the student, will be of much use to the leaders or members of the Verband unless the results are presented to them in some more popular form. P.A.

10.—*Deutschlands Kulturausgaben*. Von Dr. Ludwig Sevin. 183 pp., 8vo. Berlin: Puttkammer und Muhlbrecht. 1912. Price 3 mks. 60 pf.

It was to be expected that students of administration and finance would soon begin to quarry in the great mass of material which the Imperial German Government collected in 1908 and published during the discussion on financial reform. That material was hastily gathered, to a large extent ill-digested, and open (especially in respect of local finance) to much criticism; but an attempt was made, for the first time, to gather for the German Empire some comprehensive financial statistics prepared on uniform lines. If the effort was not entirely successful, the fault lay less with the Imperial Government than with the State authorities, who had hitherto in the main shown themselves curiously neglectful of the statistics of local government; and it at least brought together a large amount of data which could be of substantial value if cautiously used.

It has proved so in the hands of Dr. Sevin, who has been privileged to go beyond the published documents to the original returns received by the Imperial Treasury, and so to produce a useful and suggestive study of the expenditure of Germany upon educational (in the widest sense of that adjective) and ecclesiastical services, and of the resultant burdens upon the Empire, the separate States and the local bodies. As he uses the special material indicated above, Dr. Sevin's figures do not come beyond 1908, but nothing has occurred since then to modify the conclusions reached.

The imperial expenditure on these services is small, less than 20 million marks, the greater part being for naval and military academies, and the rest chiefly for army chaplains and churches and German schools abroad. The expenditure by the State Governments amounted to approximately 380 million marks, and represented in 1908 and the two preceding years about 23 per cent. of their expenditure on internal administration. Taxation per head in respect of these charges was highest in Anhalt, with a little over

14 marks, and lowest in Baden, with 8.2 marks. Included in these figures is State taxation for ecclesiastical purposes, which ranged from 2.1 marks in the Reichsland to nothing in Bremen, the only state in the German Empire which makes no contribution to any religious bodies. The larger part of the charge for the services under consideration falls, however, upon the local government authorities or upon the special school associations; thus, taking the combined total ordinary expenditure for 1907-8 at an estimated amount of 965 million marks, the contribution of the Imperial Government was 18 millions, of the State Governments 380 millions, and of the local authorities 567 millions, or 59 per cent. This, however, does not represent the full extent of the communal share, since it excludes the cost of new school buildings, estimated at about 10 per cent. additional to the total stated above, and falling mainly on the communes. Substantially, therefore, two-thirds of the cost of educational and ecclesiastical services—so far as met out of National funds—is borne by the communes (the higher local authorities spend an amount which is relatively insignificant). The total German expenditure by all authorities for these purposes was 17.2 marks per head of population in 1907, as compared with 17.9 marks for the Army and Navy—the comparison would hardly be so favourable now. The expenditure per child in the elementary schools ranged from 88 marks in Hamburg to 35 marks in Schaumburg-Lippe.

The burden presses very heavily upon the poorer states and areas. Whilst for Prussia as a whole the expenditure upon schools is approximately one and a half times the yield of the state income tax, it is in the eastern portions of the kingdom generally two to three times the yield of that tax for the corresponding districts, and rises in some districts to four or five times. Between the various communes there is the same disparity, and even so the relatively heavier burdens of the less prosperous districts do not enable them to attain to the same level of efficiency as their more fortunate neighbours. One remedy, if only partial, would appear to lie in the formation of large areas, with the resultant equalisation of taxation and improvement of educational administration; but this, though advantageous within the larger states, would not help the smaller ones, and Dr. Sevin's own special proposal, the taking over of education by the Empire, would, we imagine, encounter strong opposition upon obvious political grounds.

Dr. Sevin's book would be more useful to English students if prefaced by a brief outline sketch of the general educational organisation of the Empire; the absence of such a statement, though rendering his survey a little obscure in places, does not, however, seriously detract from its interest.

P.A.

11.—*Problems in Eugenics. Papers communicated to the First International Eugenics Congress held at the University of London, July 24 to 30, 1912.* 486 pp., 1s. 8vo. Published by the Eugenics Education Society, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C., 1912. Price 8s. 6d. net.

In a volume entitled "Problems in Eugenics" the organising committee of the recent International Congress have collected the