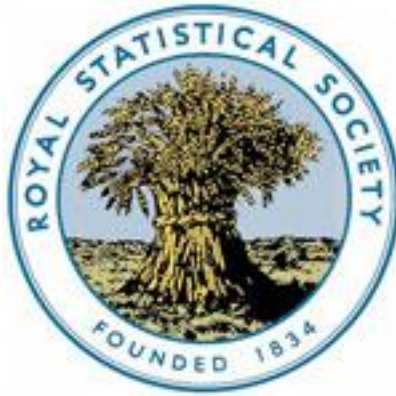


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Review

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who possesses an unequalled faculty for solving difficult business problems, "but," said the admirer, "he can never tell you how he "does it." Knowledge of economics will, however, among other things, enable one to test advice given by "business men" in public affairs and will help business men to avoid absurdities. To-day is the day of the business man, therefore let him study economics.

H.W.M.

9.—*England in Transition, 1789–1832: A Study of Movements.* By William Law Mathieson, LL.D. 285 pp. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1920. Price 15s.

The period of history covered by Dr. Mathieson's volume affords so many parallels to our own time that a new study of its events is welcome. So short a book could not be expected to contain many novelties, and the author has largely relied upon well-known and easily accessible publications. But he brings to his task an impartial if not particularly profound judgment and a clear literary style. Thus, in speaking of years which ushered in the nineteenth century, he remarks that to liberal minded contemporaries it must "necessarily have seemed a time of shattered hopes and unmitigated gloom. But what was conjecture and anticipation to them is fact and retrospect to us; and the period has a more cheerful aspect "when viewed from the historical standpoint." He also points out that the opposition to Parliamentary reform which excited such bitterness in men like Thomas Love Peacock (the judicious novel reader will recall the dinner party at Mainchance Lodge in *Melincourt*) was not wholly mischievous. "One may say that the constitutional settlement had little to lose and much to gain by being deferred to a time when the consequences of the two revolutions, French and English, political and economic, could in some measure be reconciled."

Dr. Mathieson does not deal largely in statistics, but the following passage needs qualification. "Statistics are our best resource if we wish to realize the magnitude of such changes as these. Before 1751 the largest decennial increase of population had been about 5 per cent.; but from that period, and especially from 1781, it rose rapidly till in 1801 it had become 14 per cent." A reader not acquainted with the facts, would hardly infer from this statement that the first general census enumeration was made in 1801, and that estimates of population changes during the eighteenth century depend upon inferences from the abstracts of parish registers inserted in the first census report, inferences respecting which there is room for considerable difference of opinion.

Dr. Mathieson, as we have said, tells his story well. We might select as an example his account of the *Zong* affair. This was the case of the sea captain who jettisoned 132 slaves for fear they should die and thus be a loss to the owners instead of to the underwriters. "The Solicitor-General," says Dr. Mathieson, "on behalf of the owners, went so far as to repel not only the 'suggestion of cruelty,'

"but even a 'surmise of impropriety in the transaction.'" That sentence brings out the sordid horror of the business better than would many pages of rhetoric. M.G.

10.—Other New Publications.*

Amsterdam. Le Bureau municipal de Statistique de la Ville d'Amsterdam. October 10, 1894–1919. 60 pp., 4to. Amsterdam, 1920.

[To commemorate the twenty-fifth year of its existence, the Municipal Statistical Bureau of Amsterdam issued in 1919 a volume containing a history of the Bureau and of its activities, with a short statistical account showing the development of the city during those twenty-five years. The volume was printed in the Dutch language and, for the convenience of the many statistical departments in other countries having relations with the Amsterdam Bureau, it was decided to issue the volume, omitting certain portions, in the French language. The brochure is tastefully printed and illustrated with diagrams and charts, and happily fulfills the object for which it was compiled.]

Bachi (Riccardo). L'Italia economica nel 1919. Anno XI. xii + 476 pp., 8vo. Citta di Castello, 1920. Price 20 lire.

[The eleventh issue of this valuable survey is on the lines of the earlier volumes and is divided into two main sections. The first deals with the economic situation of the country as regards commerce, banking, prices of commodities, agricultural and industrial production, transport and state finances. The second portion relates to the general economic policy of the country in regard to securing its development under the above heads. There is an appendix on the economic condition of "Venezia Giulia," formerly the Austrian Littoral, and the usual bibliography of economic publications, official and unofficial, issued during the year.]

Döring (Dr. Hermann). Versicherung und Luftverkehr. 95 pp. Berlin: Mittler und Sohn, 1921. Price 24 marks in Germany and 60 marks abroad post free.

[This essay was awarded the prize of 10,000 marks offered by the German Actuarial Association (Deutscher Verein für Versicherungs-Wissenschaft) in 1919 for the best treatise on insurance in relation to aeronautics, and it is issued as one of their publications. There is little doubt that, with the increase in aviation, many additional forms of insurance against its dangers must come into being and, with an intelligent anticipation of future events, the association decided on the award of a prize as a means of focussing expert opinion on the subject.]

Economic History of Chosen. Economic History of Manchuria. Compiled in commemoration of the Decennial of the Bank of Chosen. 2 vols., 8vo. Seoul, 1920.

[These two volumes give in handy form much information of an economic and statistical character in regard to Korea and Manchuria respectively, and the directors of the Bank of Chosen are to be congratulated on deciding on this method of commemorating the tenth year of their existence. The books adequately cover the economic field and good use has been made of such statistical material as is available.]

* See also "Additions to the Library," page 493, *sqq.*