

to the cities are represented in as many as fifty numbers. The first document in French in the collection is from June 1224, after this the two languages alternate. There are several lengthy charters, such as one stating the rules of a society for mutual assistance constituted by the armorers of Bayonne, November 30, 1213, and another dealing with the duties of the consuls and directors of the Levantine trade extracted from a statute by the city of Marseilles, 1253-1255. The further the collection proceeds into the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the more minute the regulations become and the easier to read, if not quite to interpret. The two volumes are in many respects a treasury for the one who wishes to make use of texts for instruction, the difficulties with which in some places they abound being but means for the wholesome exercise of faculties that otherwise rust in the easy reading of what has been written without opportunity for personal investigation. They are at the same time a pleasant enticement to the one who is for the first time confronted with the bewildering labyrinth of facts called mediæval civilization and eager to find the leading thread. If interleaved, the volumes would be well adapted to seminar work on the mediæval city. The many misspellings and other errata, however, must be corrected before the work can be entirely satisfactory.

A. M. WERGELAND.

*Industrial Social Organization.* By J. C. VAN MARKEN. (Translated by S. De Jastrzebski.) 1901. 4to, pp. x+76.

MR. VAN MARKEN'S Yeast and Oil factories, with their related social institutions, at Delft, Holland, constitute one of the chief examples to be found in Europe of the attempt to harmonize the interests of employer and employees. In the organization of industry as here carried on the principles of profit sharing and employers welfare institutions have been carried to their logical extreme. Ground has been purchased and laid out in a charming residential park, in which the employees and their families live as far as the size of the park permits. Institutions of almost every conceivable character for the benefit of the workingmen have there been created. Some idea of the extent of this work may be gained from a chart contained in the present work entitled, "Scheme of Social Organization" which enumerates no less than 107 different ways in which work is done for the benefit of the workingmen and their families. Every need from kindergarten for the children to superannuation pensions for the old workingmen are provided for.

At the Paris Exposition of 1900 almost the whole of the space assigned to Holland in the section of Social Economy was devoted to an exposition of the organization and workings of these institutions. The present volume is in the nature of a permanent record of the material there shown. The work gives a detailed description of each of the institutions, the system of profit sharing, the co-operative printing company, the accident, sickness, and old-age insurance funds, the schools, libraries, athletic and social clubs, etc.

One cannot but admire the devotion and sacrifice of Mr. Van Marken which have led to the creation of all these efforts for the improvement of the condition of the working people who are his employers. At the same time one must question whether he has at all times pursued the wisest methods. Everywhere there is evidence that the working-man is held in tutelage. He is assigned to one of several classes according to his merit and can be promoted from one to the other or degraded. The system is almost identical with that employed in grading school children. Even in respect to the matter of savings banks, there are regulations determining the purposes for which withdrawals may be made. A minimum reliance seems to be placed on private effort and initiative. Indeed Mr. Van Marken frankly assumes the position that reliance cannot be placed upon the men of their own volition to take such action as is necessary to safeguard their future and that therefore the employer should compel them to do so. Thus regarding his system of compulsory saving, he says :

Of late there are those who call for the abolition of this compulsory saving ; such a proceeding would certainly be equivalent to the suppression of the bank and ought to be considered a most regrettable fact. The advocates of this abolition pretend that the members of the staff are men enough to watch over their personal material interests and those of their families themselves ; they forget that few individuals are strong enough to deprive themselves of the satisfaction of the daily wants of the family, in order to put something on one side, in view of the extraordinary circumstances of life.

Here is stated the whole question of employer's institutions as a method of social reform. It may be granted that many men do not have the provident quality sufficiently developed, but should not efforts look rather to the cultivation of this quality of providence through self action than to accepting the fact as a permanent condition and providing means for outside compulsion or help ?

In judging concerning this matter, however, distinction must be

made between the different kinds of institutions. Many of the efforts of the employer such as those for the beautification of the grounds, the provision of pleasant places in which the noon meal can be taken, the putting of small gardens at the disposition of the employees, etc., are in no way subversive of independent self-help, while others clearly are intended to do for the men what they should do for themselves. Finally due weight must be given to differences in race characteristics and other influences. A social scheme might give excellent results in one country and be totally unfitted for conditions in another.

Mr. Van Marken has rendered an excellent service to all interested in this question in the full exposition that he has made of his social work. His volume is profusely illustrated and contains the plan of the workingmen's houses and other buildings besides charts showing graphically some of the more important results.

W. F. WILLOUGHBY.

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*Wilhelm Liebknecht, sein Leben und Wirken.* Von KURT EISNER.

Berlin: Buchhandlung Vorwärts, 1901. 12mo, pp. 64.

THE socialist leader of Germany, William Liebknecht, died last August, and in September there appeared in Berlin a short biography of him written by Kurt Eisner who spent his vacation in selecting material and putting it into form. Copies of the brochure—for it is hardly more than that—have just reached American reviewers.

It is almost as hard to give an estimate of this first biography as it must have been to write it, because due allowance must be made for the close comradeship of writer and subject, as well as for the party spirit which animates the judgment of Eisner. In the relation of the events of Liebknecht's career the author is very successful in bringing before us a clear picture of the man in his entire development. The child of a highly cultivated family he inherited refinement and a university career. Three universities contributed to his education. In the desire for democracy he started for America, but was persuaded (1847) to wait for revolution in Europe.

Liebknecht was in Switzerland as one of Froebel's teachers; he was in Paris at the time of the Commune; he helped stimulate the insurrection in the small states of Germany; and then as an exile he met Marx in London. While there he became a class-conscious socialist with enough determination and enthusiasm to carry him for years