

opportunity to observe what effect these things were having on the minds of the real prisoners. Of course it was impossible not to inject into his observations his own ideas and feelings about punishment, but for this due allowance must be made.

The result of the experience was to increase the optimism of the author in the reformation of the criminal under conditions conducive to that end—conditions largely lacking in the Auburn system.

It may be observed that Auburn as described is hardly typical of the better class of modern prisons, but there are some that are worse. Changes in prison treatment are rapidly being made for the better and there are few books in the range of prison reform literature better calculated to further this reform. The book is fascinating reading,—the type that one desires to read through before laying it down.

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REEVES, MRS. PEMBER. *Round about a Pound a Week*. Pp. 231. Price, \$1. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

The author of *Round about a Pound a Week* has made an interesting contribution to the rapidly growing number of intensive standard-of-living studies. The five-year investigation on which this book is based was confined to a small district of London, England, and was apparently carefully prosecuted, although the description in the book does not enable the reader to tell exactly what range of accuracy was maintained.

The book includes chapters on the district, the people, housing, furniture, budgets, food, buying, and family menus. This portion of the work deals directly with the standard-of-living problem. The remainder of the chapters, the poor and marriage, mother's days, the children, and the people who are out of work, deal generally with the economic and social problems so frequently met with in any industrial district.

The American reader is particularly impressed by the congested living and the scanty diet of the families described. Although the immigrants who do the low-paid work in the industrial centers of America live, in many cases, under even worse conditions than those surrounding the lives of the people here described, the general tone of American living standards is distinctly higher than that described in this study. International comparisons are always unsatisfactory, yet the minuteness with which many of the details of of London living are set forth allows the student of American standards to generalize to this extent, that the living conditions of those "round about a pound a week" would be generally regarded in the United States as intolerable.

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SEAGER, H. R. *Principles of Economics: Being a Revision of Introduction to Economics*. Pp. xx, 650. Price, \$2.25. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1913.

The present volume is the 4th. edition of the author's *Introduction to Economics*, which was first published in 1904. During these ten years signifi-

cant changes have taken place in the industrial world and refinement in theory has been in progress. The author, long president of the American Association for Labor Legislation, has given us in this volume the fruit of his valuable experience. Its freshness is wholesome. The plan of the work is still to combine the textbook with the lecture. The whole field of economics is covered in a way that makes the book especially valuable for college classes. It has a new and stronger appeal for adoption by college instructors than the *Introduction* enjoyed.

To point out the changes made in the old volume is the task for the reviewer.

In its revision the subject matter has been brought down to date in every particular. The first chapters dealing with industrial history have fortunately been retained, for a short introduction to economic history is quite essential as preliminary to work in the theoretical subject matter of economics. The chapters on theory have been largely rewritten. From its pedagogical standpoint the subject of value and distribution is full of difficulties. In the present volume the author has quite satisfactorily met the criticisms for his abstractness in the earlier work and has given a happier presentation for students taking introductory courses in the subject.

Revision in policy is indicated by the fact that a maturity of statement is now more apparent than existed before when qualifications to broad statements were neglected. The author has gone to considerable pains to polish the style of presentation, and has improved the chapters by omitting the usual summary statement except where it is quite essential to the grasp of an extended discussion.

The revision of the titles placed in the margin has resulted in increased succinctness. The "references for collateral reading" at the close of each chapter have been carefully and thoroughly revised. The student is thus given the advantage of all the better work of the past few years.

In the third part of the book which deals with the problems of economic reform, the author's experience in the practical field has resulted in the most important revision of the former work. Four new chapters have taken the place of the single chapter on that subject. These chapters are devoted to labor legislation which treats of child and woman labor, the eight-hour day and the minimum wage; profit-sharing and coöperation; social insurance, which covers accidents, illness, old age and unemployment; and socialism. The new governmental policies which are to-day most seriously pressing for solution are clearly and adequately treated. The subject of socialism is developed in a novel and interesting manner. In these four chapters we have a maturity of statement with a lucidity and grasp that are sure to give firmness to the character of the opinions of the students as they complete the subject.

The spirit and the results of the work again emphasize the fact that economics, once "a 'dismal science'"—in the words of the author, "has become a study from which highly optimistic conclusions may be deduced." The author sees little hope for the realization of the socialistic propaganda, because to him the chief means of effecting progress must be "a widening of the function of the state in the direction of further limitations on the rights of property and the more rigid regulation of industries."

The Principles of Economics is a very important contribution to contemporary economic literature. No book so admirably fitted for college classes has yet appeared.

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SIEGFRIED, ANDRÉ, *Democracy in New Zealand*. (Trans. by E. V. Burns.) Pp. xxiii, 398. Price, \$1.75. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

There is a gap of ten years between the publication of the French edition of M. Siegfried's work and the publication of this English translation. The facts and figures are therefore somewhat old. But this detracts very little from the value of the work. The real value, as Mr. William Downie Stewart says in his introduction, is in the "profound insight into the spirit and character of the New Zealand democracy, into the constitution of political parties, and into the attitude of New Zealand toward imperial problems."

New Zealand democracy is an interesting admixture of political radicalism of the opportunistic sort with a social attitude toward wealth and station that smacks of the snobbish. The New Zealand people believe that they have an apostolic mission to humanity to point out the path of social progress. Politically they have a contempt for theories. "At heart, they are probably convinced that politics are not as complicated as they have been made out to be, and that a little courage and decision are all that is required to accomplish the reforms of which Europe is so afraid."

On the imperial question, there is a passion for autonomy; but this is combined with a conviction of the greatness and wisdom of England that makes interpretation difficult. The colony is "a spoilt child which never suffers for its sins, for a helping hand is always there to redeem its faults." The situation is one of security without responsibility. In the field of social and industrial legislation, M. Siegfried says that what the New Zealanders most need is "principle, convictions, reasoned beliefs." Serious scientific study must come as a basis of social action.

Part IV, dealing with society and life, is an exceptionally interesting portion of an altogether brilliant work.

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WELLS, H. G. *Social Forces in England and America*. Pp. 415. Price, \$2. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1914.

This book is composed of a number of essays or papers published originally in England under the title *An Englishman Looks at His World*. The broad range of the author's interests is evident from the subjects covered. He discusses such varied topics as the British Empire, labor unrest and social panaceas, the contemporary novel, English education, motherhood, divorce, sociology.

Herein lies the fatal fault of the book, for the author's broad interests lead him into fields of which he is not master and in which he is scarcely at home. He discusses labor unrest, to take but one illustration, with rare in-