

crudities" of past socialistic theory, but with socialism as "a faith whose part in politics was never so great as it is today nor ever seemed surer of an important future."

As may be inferred from this quotation, his treatment of the subject is very sympathetic, and the tone of the work suggests a propagandist motive.

Continental countries are classified into those which have representative democratic governments and those which have not; while Belgium, Holland, and Sweden have governments which are parliamentary, but not democratically representative and constitute a third class. Manifestly, the position of the socialists in countries where the more democratic institutions prevail is different from that held by members of the "faith" under governments which are not directly amenable to their influence.

The main portion of the book consists of articles or addresses by sixteen prominent socialists representing different phases of their doctrine and of their relations to government. Most of these writers are contemporary, though Marx has a place. By this plan the creed is presented in fairly compact and convenient form, while the writers chosen are such as give to the presentation the stamp of authority. The socialists indeed have their day in court. Ten chapters are given to the reprint of as many programs, constitutions, and election addresses of organized bodies.

The final chapter is taken from the novel *M. Bergeret à Paris*, by Anatole France, where the novelist points to a bright future when, "after selfishness and greed have toiled for centuries," the wealth of the world has become common to all mankind—a state of society in which collectivism will have fully supplanted private property in the means of production.

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*Women in the Printing Trades: A Sociological Study.* Edited by J. RAMSAY MACDONALD. London: P. S. King & Son, 1904. 8vo, pp. xii + 296.

It must be a great satisfaction to all who are interested in the problem—for such it must be called—of the gainful occupation of women, to find any phase of it treated in such a thoroughgoing scientific way as is the work of women in the printing trades in the volume under review. For the subject of the employment of women

outside of the home is one on which every tyro who is interested in social problems, feels himself competent to express an opinion, and one on which we have grown accustomed to hearing large generalizations based on insufficient and unreliable data. The plan of the Women's Industrial Council, of making "an inquiry into women's labor in every trade of any importance," is one so much to be commended, and the present volume, the first step in the fulfilment of that plan, promises so much for the value of the undertaking as a whole that it is earnestly to be hoped that the necessary funds will be forthcoming to carry it on. As Mrs. Fawcett long ago pointed out, the proposition, "equal wages for equal work," is not so simple as it seems; and while it may express an ideal, it is an ideal that can be achieved only when the economic conditions of men's work and women's work are the same; and it is only by scientific investigations like this that we can discover the facts relating to those conditions. We had in this country a most promising beginning of such a study in Mrs. Willett's very scholarly treatment of *Women in the Clothing Trades*, but, so far as we know, no similar investigations followed it.

With reference to the present volume two leading questions should perhaps be asked: (1) What light does it throw on the condition of women in the trades investigated? (2) How far does this go toward solving the further and larger problem connected with the presence of women in the industrial world as a whole? That is, do the conditions in these trades tell us at all why women's wages are lower than men's; or whether women are inferior as workers to men; or what becomes of the workingwoman after marriage — is she likely to continue her work, and, if she does, are wages likely to suffer?

So far as the first question goes, it need only be said that the information furnished is interesting, reliable, and adequate. With regard to the second question, there is much — particularly in the chapters on "Women's Work and Organization," "Men and Women as Workers," "Industrial Training," "Married and Unmarried," and "Women and Machinery," that adds to our knowledge of wage-earning women in general.

On the whole, the tone of these chapters is very pessimistic toward women's work. We are told in many different connections of their lack of skill and ambition; that they have gone into the branches of the trade which are scorned by men and boys because the chances of rising are *nil* (p. 15); that they are lukewarm trade-unionists, because they "do not take that strenuous interest in their labor conditions

which is essential to successful organization [and because they] . . . assume that wages are fixed, and that any effort to alter them by organization will be doomed to failure" (p. 43); they are so "lethargic that they are largely governed by use and wont" (p. 52.); and they have a "pessimistic and listless view that whatever *is*, is fixed." It is said that

the condition of the woman is not stirred by the possibility of material employment as the reward of skill and industry. When responsible places become vacant, it is sometimes difficult to get women to consent to fill them. They seem to have little of that divine discontent which is the mainspring of progress (p. 65).

We are told further that women have not gone beyond the "simple mechanical processes, and have shown little interest in complete series of industrial processes" (p. 67); in short, that the woman wage-earner "has preferred to remain incompetent" (p. 65).

All this, and much more of the same tenor which could be quoted, might be extremely depressing to those who have high hopes of the future for women in the industrial world; but when one comes to look for causes, it is not so easy to find any real ground for discouragement. For in seeking an explanation, one is forced to the conclusion that these causes are likely to disappear wholly when we have that longed-for "readjustment of traditional modes of thought" toward the employment of women; and, with this change in the attitude of the community toward her work, the woman wage-earner will be found to be as energetic, ambitious, and competent as the man.

Of course, these objections to women's work are by no means new nor are they confined to England or to the printing trades. To realize how widespread they are, we have only to recall the comparatively recent decision of the Granger Roads that all of the women on their pay rolls ought to be dismissed because they wanted in their under-positions employees who could be promoted.

The testimony which should be most emphasized as explanatory is to the effect (1) that women's wages "on the whole, but with important exceptions, . . . appear to be supplementary" (p. 203); and (2) that women generally leave these trades after marriage, and the age in the workrooms appear to be mainly between eighteen and twenty-three (p. 102); or, as one investigator put it, "the general reputation of women as workers, *especially their liability to marry and leave*, must permanently handicap the most efficient in search of employment" (p. 66, the italics are added). Surely it is worth

while to raise the question whether, if the woman wage-earner is ever encouraged — and it seems reasonable to hope that she sometime may be — to feel (1) that it is as incumbent upon her as upon her brother to be self-supporting and to regard her wages as wages and not as supplementary earnings; and (2) that her work is to be a permanent occupation and not a “meanwhile” employment — that all of the disadvantages her employers and her co-workers among the men are so ready to charge up against her may not disappear.

In this connection what is said of the work of married women is especially interesting: “What little influence the married woman has on wages seems to be to raise and not to lower them; that is the unanimous opinion of the forewomen in London, and they know best” (p. 106). The reasons for this are the greater independence of the women after marriage, and the fact that she is then better able “to appreciate the relations between wages and living expenses; and when she returns to the workshop, it is as a worker who accepts the life of the wage-earner as a final fact and not as an interval between school and marriage” (p. 107). The same thing is true of the widow: “She seems to regard herself as a permanent worker” (p. 108). This, then, seems to be the pivotal point, that not until she “accepts the life of the wage-earner as a final fact” can the woman worker be expected to attain that industrial efficiency which is the concomitant of high wages. When this time comes, we may hope to have an end of such testimony as is given here. In one London firm “the idea of paying women at the same rate as men struck them as ridiculous. ‘They would never be worth as much because they stay such a little time.’” (Appendix II, p. 148.)

The contrast that one investigator draws between the middle-class woman and the wage-earning woman of the lower classes is very interesting. “The progressive young woman, eager to show that she is man’s equal and can do man’s work, seems to be a product of the middle classes” (p. 65). The explanation of this difference is at hand, for, since only 50 per cent. of the women of the middle class, and practically 100 per cent. of the wage-earning classes, marry, then the chief obstacle toward the woman’s taking her work as a permanent thing looms just half as large in the path of the woman of the middle class as in that of the wage-earning woman.

While the general attitude of the investigators seems to be that the objections to women’s work must be more or less permanent, and that “the exceptional woman will always have to bear the burden of

the average woman," there is, we believe, another side to the question. Certainly some of the reasons given for the failure of women to continue their work after marriage—e. g., "the sense of feminine respectability," and the opposition of employers on the ground of principle—that husbands should support their wives—may some time be changed. It may also be questioned whether too much is not made of the difference between men's work and women's work; and whether, though Mr. and Mrs. Webb also incline to this opinion, we should accept without question the dictum that "when all false emphasis and exaggeration have been removed, a considerable residuum or difference [between men's work and women's work] must remain" (p. 64).

Of very great interest, too, is the chapter on legislation, in which the testimony seems to be very generally in favor of the restrictions which the factory acts have placed upon the labor of women. While this is in line with current public opinion in this country as well as in England, we cannot help feeling that it is difficult for those who ask for the largest possible freedom for women in the industrial world on the one hand, to justify their demand for special protective legislation on the other.

On the whole, the book is extremely valuable as a scientific contribution to the study of an important subject, and is thoroughly interesting and readable all the way through from Professor Edgeworth's commendatory preface to the final chapter on wages—a chapter so remarkable, from the point of view of statistical method, that it could have been done only by an expert like Mr. Bowley.

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*Kinderarbeit und gesetzlicher Kinderschutz in Oesterreich.* By SIEGMUND KRAUS, Leipzig: Franz Deuticke, 1904. 8vo, pp. vi + 199.

Mr. Siegmund Kraus, teacher at Hohe Warte, a school for the blind at Vienna, in his interesting studies has endeavored to familiarize his countrymen with the need for better legislation for the protection of children of school age. His book is a protest against the hard, if not barbaric, practice of subjecting children to endless manual labor before they are bodily and mentally fit to stand the strain without lasting injury. The surveillance exercised by the