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Author(s): C. F. Bickerdike

Review by: C. F. Bickerdike

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The Economic Journal

Die Technik des Welthandels. By PROF. DR. RUDOLF SONNDORFER. 3rd Edition; revised 1905. 2 vols. (Wien und Leipzig : Alfred Hölder.)

IN the enlarged and revised third edition of his text-book for commercial students, Dr. Sonndorfer has introduced a considerable amount of matter in addition to that found in the useful second edition. The changes of the six years intervening between the two editions have been carefully followed. While the general plan of the work remains as before, the treatment of special topics is carried further in the new issue. Those sections which deal with the mercantile operations in particular commodities—wheat, petroleum, cotton, &c.—have been separated from the more general sections, and form the second volume. This volume contains, not merely information on new developments in the various markets discussed in the second edition, but new sections, dealing with materials whose markets were not discussed in detail in the preceding edition. The important section on coal and iron could not be finished in time for the volume, and the supplement dealing with these commodities has not yet reached us.

Among the new and valuable features of the present edition may be mentioned a discussion of the German Bourse legislation, and of the results of the Brussels Sugar Convention. A work of very great value has been rendered even more useful to students and to teachers by the careful revision to which Dr. Sonndorfer has subjected his text-book, and by the additions which he has found opportunity to make.

A. W. FLUX

Abriss der Sociologie. By ALBERT G. F. SCHÄFFLE. (Tübingen, 4 marks.)

THE author's earlier work, *Bau und Leben des Socialen Körpers*, was criticised, like Herbert Spencer's sociological works, on the ground that too much was made of biological analogies. The present work was undertaken with a view to removing misconceptions as to the importance which the author attached to these analogies.

The work seems also to have had some connection with the author's interest in the discussions which preceded the establishment of the new tariff.

The agrarians raised the familiar alarm about impending ruin. Schäffle insisted upon the necessity for further inquiry whether

the agrarian difficulties were not the accompaniment merely of change and development. He proposed to undertake a more detailed inquiry into the system of agriculture, rents, prices, &c., but the tariff was accepted by the Reichstag before that inquiry was finished, and instead of pursuing the practical question, Schäffle turned to consider what development consists in, and to elaborate his system of sociology.

It must be confessed that the book is disappointing, like so many books entitled "Sociology." The question to what extent words and analogies may be borrowed from biology has rather lost interest. We must confess to being unable to get up much enthusiasm over the question whether the State has consciousness and unity analogous to the individual. The reader is anxious to get on in order to see what is to be the outcome of it all. The descriptive account of society is not, like some so-called "sociologies," merely another name for anthropology or politics or economics, though it approximates more nearly to the earlier chapters of works on economics. All detail is left to the special sciences. But the result is that nothing much beyond rather elementary and commonplace matter is left.

We turn towards the last chapter, which promises to introduce the subject of social "pathology," in the hope that we shall learn how to distinguish between disturbances which are due to normal healthy development, and those which are to be regarded as pathological. How is Schäffle going to convince the German landowner that the diminution of his rent is only the outcome of healthy development? We are doomed to disappointment. The book comes to an end before the clue is discovered. We can only regret that the brilliant author is no longer living to throw further light on it.

C. F. BICKERDIKE

Die Stahlindustrie der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika in ihren heutigen Produktions-und Absatz-Verhältnissen. By DR. HERMANN LEVY. Pp. vi. + 364. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1905.)

DR. HERMANN LEVY, whose book on English agriculture (*Entstehung und Rückgang des Landwirtschaftlichen Grossbetriebes in England*) is favourably known to British economists, has been making an investigation into the steel trade of the United States; and, in a volume so well printed that it is a pleasure to handle it, he gives in a highly readable form the results of this