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Author(s): Clementina Black

Review by: Clementina Black

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Le Développement de la Fabrique et le Travail à Domicile dans les industries de l'habillement. By ALBERT AFTALION, Professeur adjoint d'Economie Politique à la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Lille. (Paris : Larose et Tenin.)

THE clothing industries, in M. Aftalion's definition, cover a considerable field. Hosiery (*bonneterie*), boot and shoe making (*chaussure*), tailoring (*confection de vêtements pour hommes*), dressmaking (*confection pour femmes*), and underlinen making (*lingerie*), all fall within the scope of his inquiry. In regard to each of these branches of trade, he traces, first, the development of the factory system, and then the respective provinces of factory work and homework. He goes on to consider the influences which favour or which oppose the growth in these industries of the factory system, and finally considers the social consequences of this growth.

Certain general ideas run like guiding lines through the whole report, and enable the reader to understand the significance of the accumulated details. M. Aftalion shows how the natural field of factory production is the centre of the market—the goods of decent but not superexcellent quality that may be turned out by the dozen or by the gross. Products that are unique or even largely individual demand individual work, and division of labour is practically inapplicable to them. For instance, the court dress of a lady will not pay for being made in a factory, and, indeed, every garment that is to be made specially to fit escapes in some degree from any mechanical system. Work of the very highest class can never be done wholesale, and will always remain in some measure the province of handwork; and handwork and homework are sisters.

At the other end of the scale very poor work remains outside the factory as long as it pays the employer to get it done by hand at very low wages, and so to save the cost of lighting, of workroom space, and of supervision.

The broad central division, then, belongs to the factory; the narrow extremes on either side are occupied by the handworker, the homemaker, and the worker in workshops. But the proportions of the three sections differ in different branches; in hosiery, for example, the factory takes very nearly the whole of the market, leaving only, in most cases, subsidiary processes of finishing to the lowest class, and a few private orders to the highest class, of workers. In boot and shoe making the uppermost division is slightly larger, and alas! the lowest also. In all the

branches of outer clothing and in women's underlinen the variation in methods of production is much greater. In every department, however, there is constant fluctuation. The invention of an improved machine may bring into the factory work hitherto performed in the worker's home; on the other hand, the development of electricity may, as some writers think probable, bring a tiny motor to work every homemaker's sewing machine, and so vastly extend the sphere of homework. At present, as M. Aftalion justly observes, "home work, or at least an important fraction of that industry, is in the singular position of only surviving, thanks to its evils. Low pay and long working hours are among the chief conditions of its existence."

Among ourselves the factory is spreading pretty rapidly, both upwards and downwards, as far as dressmaking and underlinen are concerned, encroaching, on the one hand, upon the domain of the private dressmaker, and, on the other, upon that of the underpaid homemaker. Among Englishwomen the old-fashioned prejudice against machine-made underclothing has largely died out, and any impartial person must admit that the best machine-made English underwear is fully equal to the best hand-made English underwear, while both are generally inferior in cut and design to similar French garments. These last, however, are almost invariably hand-made. In France the preference for hand-made underclothing is as strong as ever, wherefore, as M. Aftalion reports, "the manufacture of women's underlinen remains in France generally confined to homework and workrooms. The factory scarcely trenches upon this province, on account of the requirements of feminine custom, which demands undergarments sewn exclusively by hand. The large shops in Paris refuse, without examination, to admit into their departments white goods stitched by machine—the only variety which a factory could profitably produce. It is true that at St. Omer and at Argenton, home-workers make women's underclothing by machine; but the goods are of a very cheap kind, bought by the lower classes, and paid for at deplorable rates." M. Aftalion does not touch upon the question whether the garments sold in the Paris shops—at prices little, if at all, higher than those of machine-made garments in London—are produced to any great extent in convents or prisons. This is currently reported to be the case; and, if it is so, the machine-made product is possibly kept out of the market by an artificially cheap competition.

One curious and sinister development of American monopoly is mentioned in the analysis of the boot trade. The United

Shoe Machinery Company refuses to sell its most valuable machines, and only hires them out on payment of a fixed sum and a percentage upon the work performed as indicated by a mechanical reckoner. "To buy or hire a single set of the forty machines belonging to the Goodyear series requires an immediate outlay of more than £1,600 (40,000 francs). A large factory would want several sets." This method is, no doubt, perfectly familiar to the wholesale manufacturer of boots and shoes, but has hardly yet fallen under the notice of the general reader, and may well furnish food for his reflections.

The whole volume is full of interesting detail, and its style is marked by that agreeable lucidity and readableness which we have learned to expect even in the writings of the scientific specialist, when he happens to be French.

CLEMENTINA BLACK

La Grèce Actuelle au point de vue Économique et Financier. By EDMOND THÉRY. (Paris : *Economiste Européen*. Pp. 222.)

THE need of a work dealing with the economic and financial situation of Greece was much felt by all the foreigners interested in that country. Since Leconte's *Tableau Économique de la Grèce* (1847) no such work was ever published. It is true that much valuable information was to be gathered from the English official reports, mainly those of Sir E. F. Law and Mr. H. P. Harvey, as well as from the French *Livre Jaune* of 1898 (*Arrangement financier avec la Grèce*). But these documents did not aim at giving a full account of the situation, and by reason of their official nature, tended more towards indicating than treating many questions.

On the other hand, Greek official documents are comparatively scarce, and, with the exception of the quarterly publications on trade, are issued only in Greek. Consequently, they are of little use to the foreigner.

M. Théry has made good use of all the information he could derive from published material, both Greek and foreign. He was also able, with the assistance of the Greek Government, the French diplomatic and consular officials, the Greek banks and other financial institutions, to collect and group together valuable information and many statistic data now published for the first time. This renders his book very precious, and the skill he displayed in marshalling his facts makes it most acceptable.