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A Social and Industrial History of England before the Industrial Revolution. by M. Dormer Harris; A Social and Industrial History of England in Modern Times. by E. Welbourne  
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with which civilisation is threatened by the increase of a low-grade population? There is suggested some readjustment of family incomes. Every family belonging to "the selected classes" should receive for each living child under the age, say, of twenty years an addition of a tenth or so to the income already earned—an arrangement by which the incentive to effort would not be weakened. There is foreshadowed a community, Eugenia, in which the qualities required to promote national welfare and to avert national decay will be selected and transmitted by heredity. "The supply of first-rate calibre can only be maintained by the fruitful mating of persons of superior strains. At present, in all highly civilised societies, such persons tend to be absolutely or relatively infertile. Eugenia is a scheme for bringing persons of such strains together in fertile union which will give to the world an increasing number of persons of similar calibre." The abolition of the family prescribed by Plato will not be adopted in Eugenia. In that happy land domestic life and devotion to intellectual pursuits will not be incompatible.

F. Y. EDGEWORTH

*A Social and Industrial History of England before the Industrial Revolution.* By M. DORMER HARRIS. (Collins. Pp. 227.)

*A Social and Industrial History of England in Modern Times.* By E. WELBOURNE, M.A. (Pp. 212.)

BOTH these books are part of a series of economic text-books intended for continuation schools. They are issued under the editorship of Mr. Manning, with Sir William Ashley as consulting Editor, who expresses their aim as follows in the Introduction: "These books are intended for those to whom the call of citizenship does not come in vain, those who want so to live and work as to preserve the gains of civilisation and yet to help the world and their country, as nearest to them, to a better future."

Miss Harris' book, which has interesting illustrations, accentuates the social side of English development and carries its history down to the beginning of the eighteenth century. The headings of some of the chapters will show the stress laid on the social aspect of English development: "The villager in later times," "The woman as worker," "The child as worker and learner" ("He was expected to rise early, work hard either with hand or brain, and show his elders great politeness"), "The pull of the town," "The shop and the fair," "The merchant and the

craftsman," "The artisan from overseas and the native workman." There are also two pages of bibliography as a guide to more advanced reading.

Mr. Welbourne's book is concerned with the nineteenth century, and great attention is paid to the latter half of it, which is a most unusual feature. He stresses the importance of the new transport developments by land and sea, and is obviously not one of those who considers that the industrial revolution was over by 1840. He shows that even more inventions of a revolutionary nature occurred after that date than before it. The originality of his outlook may perhaps be illustrated by two quotations.

"It must not be forgotten that within the last few years a work as great as that of the men who developed the modern breed of cattle from the plough ox has been quietly done by the gardeners. They have added to the number of months in which it is possible to eat fresh vegetables by the inventions of late and early varieties. They do not shrink from inventing new vegetables and fruits to be eaten at a time of year when Nature has provided nothing."

When one reflects that this, combined with the import of fresh fruits, meant an abatement of scurvy, one of the most frequent causes of illness and death, especially of children, in every century except the nineteenth, one realises the importance of these vegetable "inventions." They needed, however, rapid and cheap transport to make them available for all classes.

Again—"In 1891 the first steam trawler sailed to Iceland, and since then the seas just within the Arctic Circle have been the true source of our fish supply. . . . In 1900 the Grimsby artificial ice-factory started to work and the annual catch of fish leaped at once from 92,000 tons to over 134,000, an amount which has since been far exceeded. Aberdeen has a similar record of activity. . . . It is the steam trawler catching such fish as are found all the year round which has given us the present steady supply of good, cheap fish." He then talks of the development of the fried-fish shop as an "invention of the twentieth century." "Yet until 1890 the inland town dweller knew fish only as a luxury, except perhaps in its cured form."

There are other chapters dealing with trade unions and Factory Acts, the views of the economists, money, banking and trade. It is unusual to meet with a discussion of other social classes than the agricultural labourer and the artisan, but Mr.

Welbourne devotes a chapter to postmen, policemen, teachers, clerks and shop assistants, and another to "Modern Society."

Both text-books show considerable evidence of research on the part of their writers. They are valuable from the point of view of scholarly presentment and originality of handling, and both are vivid, real and interesting. Both may be highly recommended to teachers of students from fourteen to eighteen. Nor would they be unprofitable reading for older persons.

L. C. A. KNOWLES

*Modern Economic History, with Special Reference to Australia* (Workers' Educational Association Series, No. 5). Published by the Workers' Educational Association of South Australia, 1921 (obtainable from Messrs. Macmillan in England). Pp. 288.

THIS book deals mainly with the period after 1760, and its novelty lies in the fact that it is constantly instituting international comparisons. It is also the only text-book known to me in which one can get the economic history of a self-governing colony treated as part of the general movement of the economic development of the world. The book would, however, be more properly styled the history of the main phases of the labour movement up to 1921, for sixteen out of the twenty-six chapters deal with industrial legislation, socialism, trade unions, syndicalism, co-operation, profit-sharing and similar industrial problems. It is, as one would expect from the author of the *History of the Yorkshire Woollen and Worsted Industry*, a scholarly book, and shows evidence of wide international knowledge. Each chapter contains a list of books for further reference. One of its merits lies in the fact that five of its chapters deal with Australian agriculture, tariff history, trade unionism before and after 1890, and the state regulation of industry and wages in Australia, while in other chapters Australian trusts and experiments in public ownership are discussed. As the University of London has just made "The Economic Development of the Empire in the Nineteenth Century" a compulsory subject for the Final Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Commerce, and as the modern Economic development of the Empire has not been written, this book will be of considerable assistance to the student for one part of the subject. Mr. Coghlan's great work on Australia, in four volumes, does