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next five (Chapters III.—VII.) deal with specific contracts, as Bailments, Agency, &c.; while Chapter VIII. is devoted to Bankruptcy. The book is written in a simple non-technical manner, so as to be easily “understood of the common people.” The writer cites no authorities.

The value of a book of this kind can only be to give laymen a general notion of their rights and duties in business transactions. It has not, and does not profess to have, any scientific value. Books of popular law, so to say, like those of popular astronomy or other science, may open the eyes of their readers to the extent and importance of the study, but cannot give them a comprehensive view of the subject. Neither can such books be depended upon as a guide in practice. The idea of “Every Man his own Lawyer” is a dream. As has been said, the man who conducts his own case or makes his own will has a fool for his client.

The present book seems to be fairly accurate, so far as it goes, though a certain number of its statements would require modification. It is probably about as good as a book of the kind can be made.

HENRY GOUDY

Entstehung und Rückgang des landwirtschaftlichen Grossbetriebes in England. By DR. HERMANN LEVY. Pp. vi., 247. 8vo. (Berlin: Julius Springer. 1904.)

THE salvation of English agriculture lies, according to Dr. Levy, in the hands of the small farmers. He begins his careful and exhaustive treatise with a history of the development of the large farm in the middle of the eighteenth century. It gradually became an accepted theory that farming on a large scale was the only possible form of agriculture for this country, a view which the writer condemns as a hasty generalisation from facts imperfectly comprehended. The high price of wheat current from 1765 gave a stimulus to this particular branch of agriculture in which the large capitalist farmer has overwhelming advantages over his small competitor, and the small competitor was crowded out of existence. It was not until 1870 that the tide turned. Foreign competition ruined the British wheatgrower, but raised the small farmer to his feet. The low price of bread, coupled with a rise of wages in the towns, left the working classes a margin of income which served to create an effective demand for meat, vegetables, fruit, and dairy produce—the products of the small farm

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par excellence. Agriculture has adapted itself, though very slowly, to the new conditions, and here, according to the writer, if we are wise we shall stop. A revival of the corn taxes would throw the whole machinery out of gear, restore the order that existed prior to 1870, and re-create the old artificial antagonism between town and country. Dr. Levy has some interesting things to say regarding peasant proprietorship, and goes at some length into the question of co-operation, which he considers the small farmer's best weapon against his foreign competitors.

H. REINHERZ

Deutsche Arbeitskammern. By DR. BERNHARD HARMS. (Tübingen : H. Laupp. 1904. Pp. xii—96. 8vo.)

IN the interests of industrial peace, a Royal Decree of February 4th, 1890, promised the working men of Germany special facilities for giving expression to their needs and wishes in a "free and peaceful manner." The wording of the Decree was sufficiently vague to avoid the necessity for immediate action, and until recently the question did not become one of practical politics. The Social Democrats had begun their campaign for "*Arbeitskammern*," that is, industrial councils established by the State, and consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workmen, as early as 1877; the other parties eventually took up the matter, and on January 30th of this year the battle was won.

Dr. Harms gives an account of the councils at present in existence in Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, and Switzerland, and describes their origin, their constitutions, and their practical achievements. He then traces the movement in Germany from its initiation by Schönberg in 1871, to the present day. The last chapter reviews the whole question of industrial councils, their functions and uses, suggests the lines on which the forthcoming German councils should be established, and points out how the mistakes, which are chiefly responsible for the councils' lack of success in other countries, may best be avoided.

H. REINHERZ

Der Lübecker Schoss bis zur Reformationszeit. (Staats und Socialwissenschaftliche Forschungen.) By DR. J. HARTWIG. (Leipzig : Duncker and Humblot. 1903. Pp. xii—237. 8vo. M. 5.20.)

THE Schoss was a direct tax established in the free city of Lübeck in the eleventh century, and in force until 1811.