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professions, that the hands which have been most eagerly stretched out to welcome her have been those of men; that the voices which have most generously acclaimed her success have been those of male fellow-workers in the fields into which she has entered. There is no door at which the hand of woman has knocked for admission into a new field of toil but there have been found on the other side the hands of strong and generous men eager to turn it for her, almost before she knocks."

I have suggested that the situation is not so critical as Mrs. Schreiner feels it to be, and that for two reasons. In the first place, the class of parasitic women, in England at any rate, is a comparatively small one. For the great mass of working and middle-class mothers the banishment of manufactures from the home means freedom to make it a home instead of a workshop. The wife of a professional man may send her sons and daughters to day-school and boarding school, and yet be so busy for them and for her husband as to be far removed from the risk of degeneration. Many even of the wealthy take upon themselves real and sober duties. The healthy forces far outweigh those which in a comparatively small section of society are making for decay. But that is no reason why the forces of decay should not be combated, with all the splendid energy which women such as Mrs. Schreiner devote to the cause. Does not, however, that energy blind her somewhat to my second point, *i.e.*, the extent to which that cause is already won? I think of the difficulty and hesitation with which we of the older generation groped our way, where now the younger lives push on with confidence and strength; I look around and see bright young girls and capable women eagerly taking up their work in almost all departments, and I feel that what remains to be achieved is not indeed a small matter, but an easy one compared with what has been achieved in the past.

"In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,  
But westward, look, the land is bright."

HELEN BOSANQUET

*Junior Labour Exchanges.* (A Plea for Closer Co-operation between Labour Exchanges and Education Authorities.) By G. W. KNOWLES, M.A., B.Sc., with a preface by Professor S. J. CHAPMAN, M.A., M.Com. (London and Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes, 1910. Pp. 32. Price 6d. net.)

THIS little pamphlet is one of the sort which every institution that is very much in the wind produces in great numbers, and

in the case of the Labour Exchanges this is all to the good, because we require the matter to be brought as much as possible to the notice of the public. In its own subject, this little brochure is well calculated to do this. Not that it goes very deeply into the matter, nor that it is free from mistakes; but it does provide in a short, lucid, and readable form an account of what is required of the Exchanges so far as concerns adult labour. It provides those who have no time for deeper reading with an outline of what the Junior (or, as I should prefer, Juvenile) Labour Exchange can do, and it is this popularisation of them that is the immediate requirement.

The author opens with a few words on the various causes of unemployment, and the place among them of the conditions of adolescent labour, and follows this by a sketch of the work done by various agencies, public and private, though more reference might be made to the work of the different Care Committees. Indeed, what Mr. Knowles advocates is already coming into existence in a somewhat different form, notably in London and Birmingham. But for voluntary agencies the difficulties are almost insuperable; and here the National Labour Exchange steps in. His proposals would group schools in each district, so that there might be a body of 4,000–5,000 leaving scholars a year in each, the control being in the hands of an Advisory Committee, which should meet daily, and be divided into groups for the purpose. Probably, however, some few evenings per week would suffice. There should be compulsory registration of children three months before leaving school, to give time for the Committee to find a suitable opening, and employers should be requested to notify vacancies that time ahead. The latter, however, would be difficult, and probably unnecessary, but some notification in advance would be desirable. The writer also makes a strong point of the giving of advice—especially as regards individual firms—and also of after-supervision. There is a comparison with Germany, but as regards boy labour the Exchange organisation would necessarily be more localised than with men.

As regards the control of the system, the author decides, after discussion, for the Board of Trade against the Education Authority. He also looks, probably rightly, to a better organisation of the apprenticeship system, rather than to its replacement, to ensure sound instruction. This is to be supplemented by Trade Scholarships for poor boys, which are to increase premiums and pay more wages, and by a revival of agricultural

apprenticeship. But the author appears ignorant of the rarity of a premium at the present day and the increase in the wages of learners. He also suffers from the too-common habit of "nagging" at the employers for faults which in the great body of them are imaginary. The uses of the pamphlet, indeed, will be largely ephemeral, but for the time being it will serve a useful purpose.

N. B. DEARLE

*Enquête sur l'alimentation de 1065 ouvriers belges.* Par A. SLOSSE et E. WAXWEILER. (Bruxelles: Misch et Thron, 1910. Pp. 260. 8vo.)

THE statistician has joy of his subject when he discovers the errors which lurk in the uninstructed use of figures, or when he extracts by ingenious methods tolerably trustworthy conclusions from fragmentary, and at first sight inadequate, material. But this publication of the Institut Solvay, which is doing such good work in Belgium, is likely to chasten him. For apparently only a committee of experts in various branches of science could combine the instruction necessary for a proper use of the figures, and the positive conclusions which can be drawn from them are very modest.

We have here the rudiments of expert co-operation. M. Slosse produces a physiological analysis of the data, and M. Waxweiler is responsible for their sociological analysis. M. Slosse is appalling. To form an opinion as to the average nutrition of a class of the community must almost, it seems, pass the wit of man. The consumers are not equal units. We are familiar with what is called in sporting circles "weight for age and allowance for sex," and may admit standard weights for adult men, women, boys, and girls. But one man is big and another small, and the radiation of heat from the body is a function of its superficies, which Meeh has correlated with weight by the formula  $O = K \sqrt[3]{a}$ , where  $O$  represents the surface of the body,  $K$  a constant 12.3, and  $a$  the weight of the body in grammes. The plain man may well shake his head over this, knowing that two persons of equal weight, of whom one is tall and thin and the other plump, carrying his weight inside, may have a very different superficial area. But even if superficial area be the same, one man may give out more energy in his work than another, and we must allow for the restoration of this expenditure before we reckon what is thesaurised for nutrition. Let us, therefore, take men in the same industry. Yes, but one has a long walk to and