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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

from his work, and another lives close by. One labours in his garden when he is at home, or works on books and papers, while the other rests. Let us ascertain and make allowance for this. Still not enough; one has a good and the other a bad digestion. Much of the second man's food fails to nourish him. Let us analyse the excretions to ascertain how much has been really absorbed. So difficult is it to discover how much driving power a man derives from his alimentation!

To start with, what is this alimentation? The Workman's Budget, as we know it in Yellow Books, gives it in shillings and pence, but this is of no service to the physiologist. He must know the quantities and the nature of the commodities consumed. We give him the description and weights of the articles purchased. Useless! he tells us. "A pound of beef" to him has little meaning. It may be largely bone, gristle, and sinew. He wants to know its weight after it comes to table, when it has shrunk in cooking, and what is left on the plate. He finds different nutritive value in different kinds of meat, nay, even in different cuts from the same animal. Such simple foodstuffs as wheat and potatoes differ very much, he tells us, in their chemical constituents, according to the soil in which they are grown. It would be unmerciful to pursue the subject further. The plain man must console himself with the reflection that the values of such articles as enter chiefly into workmen's diet compensate themselves to a great extent in price, that, *e.g.*, a joint which is half waste will cost only about half as much per pound as the cut which has no waste, and that, pending the settlement and application of more precise methods, the studies even of the mere sums expended are worth pursuing, and the conclusions drawn from them (for relative, if not for absolute, purposes) not far out.

One thousand and sixty-five Belgian workmen have been studied, as representative of ten groups of industry—navvies, masons, quarry-men, colliers, engineering artificers, weavers by hand and machinery, shoemakers (hand and machine), and compositors. About 400 were in rural and the others in urban districts, and their wages range from 60 centimes to 8 francs a day, the predominant wage being apparently from 4 to 5 francs. M. Waxweiler, recognising the importance of environment and the influence of locality upon modes of living, classifies the workers by districts, and finally compares the alimentation of the Belgian workman with that of workmen in other countries.

The general conclusions are less novel and interesting than the discussions which precede them. The Belgian workman,

we are told, is not so well-nourished as he should be, having regard to the demands made upon his energy by his daily work. He does not regulate his purchases of food rationally, so as to obtain the maximum of nutrition for what he spends. His diet is deficient in albumen, and consists too much of fats and hydrocarbons. The higher the wages the more meat and the better the nourishment. It would be a mistake to infer from these commonplace results that the essays will not repay study. They are interesting, ingenious, and suggestive. The growing attention to such matters is shown by forty pages of bibliographical summary, a formidable array of the names of chemists, physiologists, economists, and statisticians who have devoted their energies to this long-neglected chapter in the consumption of wealth.

HENRY HIGGS

1. *Contemporary Social Problems*. ACHILLE LORIA. Translated by John Leslie Gardner. Pp. 156. (Swan Sonnenchein and Co. 1911.)
2. *Il Capitale*. UMBERTO RICCI. Pp. xii. + 264. (Turin : Fratelli Bocca. 1910.)
3. *La Rendita Edilizia nelle moderne metropoli*. CARLO GRILLI. Pp. 154. (Rome. 1910.)
4. *Della Emigrazione Europea*. PAOLO EMILIA DE LUCA. (Turin : Fratelli Bocca 1909. 4 vols.).

1. THIS new volume in the publishers' "Social Science Series" is a translation of a set of popular addresses given by Signor Loria to students of different faculties in the University of Padua. The lectures were unprofessorial, and the professor therefore freely expressed views destined, according to his preface, to make his audience think, rather than to provide a solution of social problems. So in this volume he flings out theories on freedom, on property, on the coming Socialism, assuring his readers at the same time of the value of their study. "All the phases of our social life have assumed an economic aspect, and only with the aid of political economy can they be brought into order and harmony." Thus capitalistic property depends for its justification on contemporary economic conditions; historically it is due to force or fraud in the past. As these conditions change, the system will give place to free associations of wage-earners. All social progress has been ultimately the result of the growth and pressure of population, "the primal cause of the evolution of the economic