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Review

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by as complete a system of combination (*Kartellierung*) as possible of the several industries. But these syndicates must not sell their goods abroad more cheaply than at home. On the contrary it is to be recommended that in times of depression domestic prices should be lower than prices of goods sold abroad." True. It would be very nice. But suppose Dr. Rost stops to think *why* the syndicates sell more cheaply abroad.

W. J. ASHLEY

*Das Englische Bankwesen.* Von EDGAR JAFFÉ. (Leipzig : Duncker and Humblot, 1905.)

THE writer of this book knows his subject, and treats it in a manner which should help his German readers to a better understanding of our banking system. As he states, there are not many German works dealing with the subject as a whole ; certainly very few written with a first hand acquaintance, such as Herr Jaffé claims and possesses. Bagehot's " Lombard Street " has, as he reminds us, been translated into German, and the translation has done good service in familiarising the German student and banker with the English money market. The German reader has also been provided with ample opportunity of understanding the constitution and working of the Bank of England. His opportunities of studying the structure and operation of our banking system in general, however, have been comparatively few, and this book should prove of material assistance in this direction. It begins with a chapter on the Bank of England ; describes the various classes of London and provincial banks, touches on the position of London as the world's Clearing House, and explains the function of the billbroker, the stockbroker, and other financial intermediaries. The second part of the volume deals with the organisation of credit, and contains an admirable section on the machinery of lending, in which the author, in a manner which one does not remember to have seen in any English work, compares closely, both from the standpoint of the banker and the borrower, the London system of advances by way of loan with the provincial method of accommodation by means of fluctuating overdraft. The third and last section treats of the inner organisation of banks and their method of conducting business, winding up with a chapter on the " One Reserve System," which, though containing nothing new, may be commended to English banking reformers. The writer's conclusion of the whole matter is that, notwithstanding obvious weaknesses, the organisation of our

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English credit system, and especially of our banking system, is in many respects both brilliant and instructive. Coming from one who evidently knows us well, this is distinctly comforting, but the writer's tribute to our excellencies should not prevent us from carefully laying to heart the criticisms which follow it in the last two pages of the book. There are some useful tables at the end of the volume.

F. E. STEELE

*Die Zukunft unseres Überseehandels. Eine volkswirtschaftliche Studie.* H.C. von DR. WALTHER KUNDT. (Berlin : Siemenroth, 1904. Pp. vii+148. Price 3 marks.)

WE have for some time past heard a great deal about tariffs in relation to over-sea trade, but not very much about the way in which that trade is conducted and the factors which determine the degree and direction of its expansion. With all the more heartiness, therefore, do we welcome Dr. Kundt's contribution to the practical philosophy of commerce. The author appears to have had experience as the representative of German firms in Mexico and gives a gaily humorous account of the work of a commercial traveller in tropical America and in Africa which in itself is well worth reading. We talk glibly in after-dinner speeches about "ambassadors of commerce," but otherwise we do not pay much attention to their work. Perhaps Dr. Kundt's book may do something to arouse us to a true idea of the magnitude of their labours.

Kartells and syndicates have largely organised the home markets, and the problem of foreign trade lies in the possibility of influencing it in some way by governmental regulations so as to withdraw it from the welter in which it now lies. The future of Germany's commerce does not depend on trade with other industrial lands which are on much the same level of capacity and exchange only specialities according to their purchasing power, nor with Russia which supplies only grain, nor with the fatalist and unsettled Near East, nor with the poor and crowded countries of China and Japan. 'To the tropical lands of America and Africa, where raw materials are varied and abundant and the climate is unsuited to the development of native manufactures, Dr. Kundt looks for inexhaustible possibilities of German trade. First through the settlement of branches and representatives and now by the despatch of pertinacious travellers German houses have exploited the tropics, finding their profit more in the