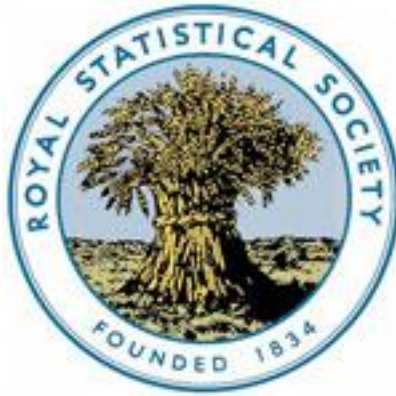


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Review

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"will tell us nothing which cannot be seen from an inspection of the "original numbers." We protest against the statement that on "the whole the formula of correlation does not introduce any new "principles" (44). It is not too much to say with another of the commentators, Professor West, that the author "is apparently not familiar with the properties of the correlation ratio" (62). We readily admit that there are limits to the use of the principle, especially with respect to quantities not susceptible of exact measurement. It is tenable that the statistics given by Professor Pearson as showing *correlation* between writers in respect of temper had better be treated by methods proper to *contingency*; as Professor Westergaard's manipulation of the statistics may be understood to suggest (50). Even upon that understanding his treatment of the statistics appears to us somewhat defective. We do not, however, much complain of his inability to trace correlation of the Galtonian kind between the degrees of temper—quick, good-natured, sullen—shown by pairs of sisters. But it strikes us with astonishment that he shows no appreciation of the correlation between *physical* characters so splendidly verified by Professor Pearson in the context of those *psychical* statistics on which the critic fastens. Can it properly be said of the Galtonian law of correlation as almost perfectly fulfilled in anthropometric statistics that "it does not introduce any new principle" (44), that "no new results can be found" by using it" ? (52).

The only explanation which we can offer—beyond the simple one suggested by Professor West in the passage above quoted—to account for the limitations in Professor Westergaard's treatment of mathematical statistics, is that he had mainly in view only statistics in the primitive sense of the term, relating to *states*, or more generally social phenomena. But then he ought not to have included in an indiscriminate disparagement Mr. Yule's statistics showing correlation between poor relief and wages and his very striking instance of correlation in *vital* statistics between number of a mother's children and number of her daughter's children (44, 45).

On the whole, so far as Professor Westergaard's treatise is addressed to *statists* in a narrow sense of the term, he deserves praise for showing that even with respect to their comparatively rough calculations the principles of Probabilities may prove useful. He has done well in bringing the philosophy of Laplace down to earth; he would have done better if he had not tried to keep it there.

F.Y.E.

2.—*The Town Labourer, 1760–1832*. By J. L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond. ix. + 346 pp., 8vo. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1917. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The general story of the Industrial Revolution had been told authoritatively before this book appeared. Apart from official publications it was given, among other places, in the well-known lectures, with that express title, of Arnold Toynbee, "the ideal "modern representative of the mediæval saint," as he has been termed by Dr. Marshall. More recently, by the help of later,

fuller investigation, it was recounted in M. Mantoux's admirable French treatise bearing the same name, and we join heartily with Mr. and Mrs. Hammond in the regret that this book has not received the English translation for which it calls. In what we suppose can be regarded as a companion-volume to their own vivid if biased description of the unhappy, unjust fate of the English village labourer, printed some years ago, our authors could, we imagine, hardly hope to enhance the sympathetic pathos with which Toynbee invested earlier the sad tale of human suffering in the strange industrial surroundings of 1760 to 1832. Nor can we discover that the appropriate use here made of "new material" "accessible "to students" in the "Home Office Papers" at the Public Record Office has altered the outstanding features of the later more complete survey to which we have referred. It is possible that on a further volume, which is promised, supplying "in detail the history "of the work-people in various industries," the fresh documentary evidence mentioned may exert more considerable and manifest an influence. But we are now prompted to inquire whether this representation, in dark colour, of regrettable episodes that disfigured a "revolutionary" stage of economic change was imperatively demanded; and we confess that the reply, made in the Preface, that the subject has a "direct bearing on problems that are beginning "to engage the attention of the nation as the war draws, however "slowly, to its end," does not satisfy our curiosity and stirs suspicion.

For the difference between the England portrayed in this book, which, with "complacent pessimism," witnessed the misery accompanying the "new civilization" introduced at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the comfortable independent life of the great bulk of English artisans in 1914 or 1917 seems to us as great as that which has divided the present prosperous Ireland of land-purchase and agricultural co-operation—the recipient, too, of willing generosity at the lavish hands of the "predominant partner" in the Union—from the past oppression of penal laws and the old unfairness of the Mercantile System, giving to the sister-kingdom worse, and not better, fiscal treatment than that dealt out to other "plantations" placed in the Colonies beyond the seas. The cases seem to us analogous and in both we can discern little justice and some disadvantage or mischief in the meticulous recall of grievances long since redressed. Resentment originally justified by conditions fortunately obsolete is, in our opinion, infelicitously or unfairly roused towards those who can be in no way to blame for the shortcomings or misdeeds of their forefathers.

Apart from the moral we have shown that Mr. and Mrs. Hammond would, as we think, illegitimately extend, they have treated their present study in a mood more scientific than that inspiring their previous narrative of the wrongs done to the village labourer in the same by-gone period. That earlier book indeed appeared to us to furnish an example of history as it should not be written. Its

account of inclosure was one-sided. The bias was extreme ; and the attitude of the joint authors too pronounced to admit of a sufficient measure of detachment. In the volume now before us little relief is provided to the intense pervading gloom, and it is not inaccurate or unjust to speak of agony as "piled on" agony. But an impersonal system may be said to be held to be more responsible than individuals engaged on its working ; and account is taken of the general temper of the times, the influence of which was not confined to economic dislocation and adjustment and did not begin or end with industrial iniquity. In fact the most significant addition these fresh narrators have made to the tale told by their predecessors is the stress laid properly on the tendency of the dominant religious creed, or varieties of creed, to excuse or palliate, or at any rate lend no active countenance to resolute opposition to, some of the most unlovely characteristics of the new social order.

The sublime assurance with which the apparent liberty of individuals to dispose of their own fates in this world, or even of that of others dependent on their control as well, was approved or justified ; and the extravagance, which had no firm permanent foundation, of the fashionable philosophy of *laissez-faire*, accorded with the ruling doctrines and the prominent beliefs of both church and chapel. No discord, but a plausible harmony, was established in the views held and expressed on terrestrial trials and heavenly rewards. And the responsibility for what occurred, or was tolerated, cannot therefore be attributed alone to the mechanical systems of materialistic logic framed by men, who were also in fact humanitarians and reformers in their special sphere, like Bentham and Ricardo, and their friends and followers. Individualism was supreme in economics and in morals, but it was also latent, if it was not revealed, in spiritual concerns ; and it was with real difficulty that troubled patriotic statesmen, confronted by the terrible results of unfettered license, could so far emancipate themselves from the current despotism of educated thought and popular opinion as to have recourse, even exceptionally, to the suspected remedy of governmental interference.

This situation has been firmly gripped and is clearly explained and pointedly described by Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, whose literary capacity is remarkable. The story which they tell may, as we have hinted, be familiar ; and the events described and the persons limned are not often new. But the tale is forcibly recounted. Scenes and incidents are bitten into the recording plate of the reader's memory with the corroding acid of a mordant temper and a copious eloquence. Although from time to time they admit the existence of exceptions the prevailing type of character is so firmly fixed that it will not be forgotten. Their uncommon capacity indeed for producing readable history is so indisputable that we regret the more any bias associated with its use by such fine craftsmen. The fault, as we have said, is less obviously prevalent in the later than it was in their earlier book. But the cool historian still disappears too frequently behind the rhetorical advocate, and

what must be in any event a painful perusal becomes unduly sombre and disheartening. We cannot rest content with the view of perversity or depravity in the upper ranks especially, of the industrial world, between 1760 and 1832 which Mr. and Mrs. Hammond seem resolved to popularize. L.L.P.

3.—*National Economy—An Outline of Public Administration.* By Henry Higgs, C.B. 147 pp., 8vo. Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1917. Price 3s. 6d.

The Newmarch Lectures for 1916 here make a timely and useful work. Until recently the literature upon this special subject was scanty indeed, but four volumes have now appeared which cover the ground so thoroughly that a satisfactory view of it is obtainable from almost any angle. Two of those works are mainly a formal presentation and arrangement of important facts and documents; two furnish a more interesting or readable account. The former are the work by Mr. Higgs entitled "The Financial System of the "United Kingdom," and a recently published work by three American University professors (Messrs. W. F. Willoughby, W. W. Willoughby and S. M. Lindsay) acting as a Governmental commission, who visited this country in 1914, full of pertinent questions and skilfully directed curiosity, resulting in a comprehensive work of great critical value. In the more popular category we find Mr. Hilton Young's book and the present volume of lectures. In reviewing Mr. Higgs' previous work it was remarked, rather by way of definition than criticism, that it would hardly serve to awaken interest in the subject on the part of new students, but Mr. Higgs has now made it clear that he can treat his subject in both mediums with equal facility. There is an ease of narration and fulness of illustration about these lectures which make them invaluable for getting a real atmosphere about the somewhat dry questions with which departmental and budgetary finance is generally supposed to deal. There was a criticism of Mr. Young's work in these columns that he was not always extolling the true economy: Mr. Higgs makes his attitude clear from the beginning by a quotation from Burke, "Expense, and great expense, may be "an essential part in true economy . . . mere parsimony is "not economy . . . Economy is a distributive virtue, and "consists not in saving, but in selection." Hence, then, this is no worship of cheese-paring. It stimulates to a high sense of the functions of the private citizen in these studies, for he "owes some- "thing to his country more than his purse. Something more even "than his heart. To serve his generation faithfully he must give "it his brains and not abdicate his fraction of sovereignty." In treating of formal finance, economical organization and business management, the control of expenditure, and of revenue, budget and loan policy, Mr. Higgs is full of wise saws and modern instances, and his lectures will be valuable to many classes of readers.

J.C.S.