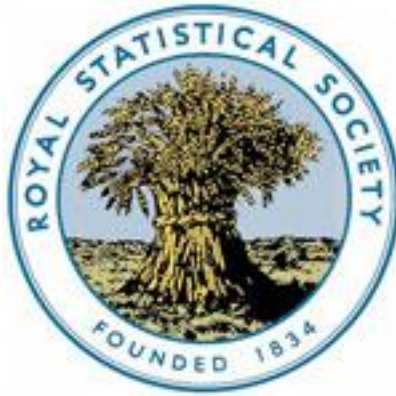


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Review

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"Preface to the third edition"! It is far the best introduction to the calculus for the student who wishes to obtain all the essentials without spending unnecessary time over special methods and needlessly complicated examples.

The reviewer would, however, be glad to see graphical illustrations used a little more freely here and there, or the student at least encouraged to make such illustrations for himself. For example, work like that of p. 8 should be accompanied by a diagram to scale, and in the chapter on maxima and minima it would be as well to draw to scale the actual graphs of one or two functions and check the values of the abscissa for maxima or minima found by differentiation from the values approximately given by the graphs. Again, in the appendix, where the idea of partial differentiation is introduced, the matter of pp. 104 and 105 would be rendered clearer by a diagram of a surface and sections of it parallel to the co-ordinate planes.

G.U.Y.

5.—*London Statistics*, 1905-06. Vol. xvi. (new series, I.), 8vo. 1906.

Owing, perhaps, to an unfortunate reputation with which the London County Council has been endowed by some who take but little practical interest in the details of its administrative work, the vast amount of statistical material it annually puts forth is too often altogether disregarded, or looked upon as merely the plaything of party polemics. It must be admitted that for this result the Council has itself been to some extent responsible, by reason of the unwieldy and incoherent form in which its annual returns have hitherto been given to the public. Up to the present year it has been the practice for each department, after compiling the tables relating to its work, to hurl them at the head of the hapless statistical officer. The latter, in order to save the expense of keeping so large a quantity of type standing, incorporated them, in the order of their infliction, into a single bulky and incoherent volume, regardless of subject, classification, or, indeed, of anything but chronological succession. Much detail, moreover, found place in the work which, though necessary for departmental purposes, is superfluous otherwise. The result was that direct reference was a matter of considerable time and trouble, and was, in fact, only rendered practicable to the outside student through a somewhat detailed prefatory memorandum prepared by the statistical officer himself.

The above system has now been altered in a manner which will be welcomed by all who take an interest in the subject. The departmental reports, with all their statistical appendices, are available for those who wish to pursue minutely a special subject, whilst the general volume has been reduced to convenient dimensions, arranged by subjects with explanatory comments attached to each, and last, but not least, with an adequate index of contents. The scope of the returns, too, has been widened so as to include in certain cases the cognate figures of adjacent areas for comparison with those of the county. The figures are also elucidated

by maps and simple diagrams. The former, it may be mentioned in passing, convey a vivid notion of the complications of area which, apart from their everyday administrative disadvantages, seriously curtail the field of statistical inquiry. If only the unit were to be made identical for all purposes of local administration, it would be possible to obtain adequate returns of, for instance, parliamentary representation, or the proportion of registered electors to adult male population, and to co-ordinate the statistics of sanitation, pauperism, and unemployment to an extent which is at present impracticable.

It is not proposed to enter here into the statistics contained in the volume in question, but only to indicate their scope and interest. More than one subject appears in the compilation for the first time. The results of the recent inquiry by the Charity Commission into certain endowments appropriated for the benefit of the county may be mentioned. They have been grouped, as far as possible, by boroughs, and the income derived from the endowments compared with the cost in each unit of statutory poor relief. Seven pages, again, are dedicated to the record of daily vehicular traffic at certain important points, which was obtained for, and presented to, the late Traffic Commission, forming an interesting drop in the multitudinous sea of information on which that laborious body floated its report. Next to it, by the way, comes a section opening with a statement which will be read by all Londoners with even more than the pain inseparable from the incontrovertible and naked truth, viz., "The authorities that may, subject or not to conditions, open up the London streets are many"; and the accompanying record, admittedly no more than partial, of the results of the above liberty will doubtless awaken bitter memories. From this the reader may pass directly to a cognate subject. Next to the cosy little fire that comforts the denizen of the neat wigwam which is an integral part of the settlement inseparable from these operations, the most prominent object, it may be noticed, is the nice tin can suspended from one of the posts demarcating the obstruction. The local opportunities for the periodical replenishment of this article forms the subject of another new chapter in the volume. Judged by the standard advocated by the minority report of 1899, these opportunities appear to be too numerous in a good many parts of the metropolis, though this is a question regarding which the statistical evidence of averages and the "large number" is not entitled to the last word. The chapter, however, contains much valuable information upon this important question.

The subject of rates is treated, as may be expected, in great and commendable detail, and the analysis of the demand, showing the proportion assigned to each service, leaves no excuse to the ratepayer who puts the saddle of his censure upon the wrong horse. The addition of the corresponding figures for the administrative areas surrounding London has much in its favour. In regard to the metropolitan rating lists, the figures of "leakage" set forth should be studied by ratepayers, together with the table showing the proportion of allowances and irrecoverable amounts in each borough,

whereby the prevalence of empty tenements on the one hand, and of the "compound householder" on the other, may be duly appreciated. Still more interesting from the standpoint of fiscal administration is the section dealing with valuation under the excellent system of periodical revision which has prevailed in London for thirty-five years. In one of the tables the distinction is drawn between the increase in the assessable value due to extension and that due to what may be termed intensification of the field of rating. In other words, to the growth of tenements in number as distinguished from their growth in value; or, structure on the one side, site on the other. The alternations of the respective influence of these factors upon the quinquennial results is well worth study; and the same may be said of the chronological features of the return, in which, superficially at all events, the centrifugal tendency of metropolitan residence seems apparent. This, however, is one of several instances found in the volume, in which the figures set forth are not only valuable as they stand, but furnish also abundant material for statistical handling outside the immediate requirements of Spring Gardens. The Council is fortunate in having had the foundations of its statistical work laid by competent and industrious hands, and every year affords greater opportunities for judging fully and impartially the results of its dealing with the varied and weighty responsibility imposed upon it, of which its statistics are the authoritative exponents. J.A.B.

6.—*Aperçu des Résultats de la Statistique Comparée du Commerce Extérieur*. Par E. Levasseur, Membre de l'Institut. [Published in *Le Journal de la Société de Statistique de Paris*, Mars—Avril, 1906.]

It is fortunate that the import and export statistics of the principal countries of the world have engaged the close attention, not only of the chief producers and consumers of statistics, namely, the government departments and the trading classes, but also of professors and teachers of political economy who use these statistics in their widest sense. At the end of 1905, *Die Woche*, of Berlin, contained a masterly article, entitled "Statistics and Commerce," by Professor von Inama Sternegg, the President of the International Statistical Institute; and now Professor Levasseur has not only followed the same researches, but has prepared several interesting statements and graphic tables showing the comparative import and export statistics of France and other chief countries of the world for more than one hundred years—that is to say, from the very beginning of their trade statistical records. In addition, Professor Levasseur has written a short fiscal and economic commentary, which throws light on many of the variations in the curves of import and export statistics in all the countries of which he treats, while for France he has given comparisons (1) for decennial periods, and (2) for historic periods; *i.e.*, for the beginning and end of each new form of government, such as Revolution, 1789-99; Consulate and Empire, 1800-15, &c. His third comparison is by economic periods, of which he has the following 11 divisions between 1789 and the present time:—