

IN THE BOOK on "Lakes of North America," * students of the economic condition of the United States will find a volume that is helpful, scientific and non-technical. The book is a good illustration of the value of giving the results of the excellent work that is being done by the United States Survey, a form which will insure it a more general use. Professor Russell gleaned the material for his book on "Lakes of North America" during thirteen years of geological work for the national government. The present work presents in a readable and attractive form some of the more valuable results of his own work and that of his fellow geologists in the employment of the United States Government. The chapters of the book discuss: "Origin of Lake Basins," "Movements of Lake Waters and the Geological Functions of Lakes," "Topography of Lake Shores," "Relation of Lakes to Climatic Conditions," "The Life Histories of Lakes," and "Studies of Special Lacustral Histories." The book is to be recommended to every student of economic geography and of the economic conditions of the United States.

REVIEWS.

Modern Civilization in Some of its Economic Aspects. By W. CUNNINGHAM, D. D. Social Questions of To-day. Pp. 243. Price, \$1.25. London: Methuen & Co., 1896.

The relation between this work and the author's well-known "Outlines of English Industrial History" is indicated by saying that while the latter showed how England's industrial system came into being the former describes how that system works. It thus appears as a treatise on economics, dealing in a popular way with the elements of the subject. To the students of Dr. Cunningham's economic histories this statement of the author's economic views will undoubtedly be interesting and helpful. The book has two main parts, one dealing with economic subjects proper, the other with the manner in which "fashions, morality, religion and law may be most effectively brought to bear by those who are endeavoring to produce some permanent improvements in our present social conditions." In the theoretical part the author does not claim to have ventured off the beaten track except in the statement of the doctrine of rent, the relation of cost of production to price, and the proper attitude toward monopoly. But even in these specified cases the deviations seem to be rather in the manner of presentation than in the substance of doctrine.

* *Lakes of North America.* By PROFESSOR ISRAEL C. RUSSELL. Pp. x, 125. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1895.

The reader will find interesting matter in the second division on the trend of material progress, the office of family, state, and the institution of religion in promoting the self-discipline of the individual, the power of socialism to cure our social ills, and the limits of state intervention. For a more approved economic régime he looks to the individual whose self-interest is enlightened by family ties, broadened by citizenship, and chastened by religion.

For the public to which it is specially addressed the book is well adapted. It is a clear and balanced discussion in untechnical language of the social machinery and social forces which are in operation to supply the economic wants of modern communities.

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Taxation and Taxes in the United States under the Internal Revenue System 1791-1895. An Historical Sketch of the Organization, Development and Later Modification of Direct and Excise Taxation under the Constitution. By FREDERIC C. HOWE, A. M., Ph. D. Pp. xiii and 293. Price, \$1.75. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1896.

The present publication is the eleventh number of the "Library of Economics and Politics," edited by Professor Ely. As its title indicates, the whole field of the national internal revenue is covered, including direct taxes as well as excise duties. The internal revenue system of the Civil War which once confronted the individual in every walk of life and in innumerable transactions of business and pleasure is now a thing of the past and almost forgotten. The receipts from customs duties have been so enormous that for several years the great financial problem was what to do with the surplus. Lately, indeed, with the reduction of the tariff, an extension of the internal revenue system was attempted. This attempt, however, met with a disastrous failure in its chief feature—the income tax. It was said on every side that the traditional and accepted policy of the United States was to obtain revenue for state and local purposes by direct taxation, and for national purposes by duties on imports and internal excises upon liquor and tobacco. The question as to what is the proper system for national taxation in a country where expenditures reach such prodigious figures as in the United States is a very important one, and the present work is a timely contribution to the study of the subject. A system of taxation should be not only theoretically defensible, but it should also be constructed with regard to the special conditions of national history and popular prejudice. To determine the proper system for