

"It calls to the low-born who thinks he has in him the power to rise to a higher position: Abandon all hope; your physical and intellectual constitution, your nerves and muscles, the causal chain of many generations holds you fast to the ground. Your ancestors have for centuries been serfs; your father and grandfather were day laborers; therefore, you are yourself destined for a similar occupation." But is this the fact? Does not Doctor Bücher unconsciously exaggerate here and even miss the very kernel of the theory to which he objects? We fancy that most people who hold that heredity plays an important part in determining the destiny of the race will totally object to such a consequence as illogical and unscientific. What Schmoller and those who think with him would say is simply that, as a matter of fact and experience, people do act more or less in accordance with a certain law, but they do not pretend to say that they should necessarily conform to this law, much less that conformity to it is an obligation. Whatever virtue there may be in heredity, we do not get rid of free will, not to speak of other forces and influences which act powerfully upon conduct and character. To say that Schmoller's theory involves the conception of man as a slave to uncontrollable circumstances is altogether to magnify and distort the significance of a plain fact of observation.

The later chapters of the book are of less value, though they contain many facts and figures which will prove of service to the serious social student. We can warmly commend Doctor Bücher's work though not agreeing with all its conclusions.

WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON.

---

*Introduction to the Study of Political Economy.* By LUIGI COSSA.

Translated by LOUIS DYER. Pp. x., 587. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1893.

This work is intended as a second and much enlarged edition of the "Guide to the Study of Political Economy" which was translated and published in 1880. It is more than double the size of the older book, and is much more complete in every way. Especially do we note the enlargement in the account that is given of the contemporary economists. The edition of 1880 contained two chapters on that period, whereas the present edition contains eight chapters, one being given to each of the leading countries. The first general division of the work also, upon the definition of Political Economy, its relations to other sciences, its method, importance, etc., has been very greatly enlarged.

There is little, perhaps nothing, new to be said regarding the work. Every one knows the excellence of the introductory matter and the

remarkable range of reading and critical ability that is shown, especially in the historical part. In a work of this extent, the writing of which demands a knowledge of nearly all of the important modern languages and an acquaintance with the literature of many countries, there will naturally be mistakes of fact. For example we find on page 411 of the new edition that the unfinished work "*Die National-oekonomie der Gegenwart und Zukunft*" is ascribed to Professor Conrad of Halle. It was, of course, written by Hildebrand, Conrad's father-in-law and his predecessor in the editorship of the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik*. Conrad, indeed, at the time of its publication lacked the years and experience to write such a work as this. We notice again on page 476 that Carroll D. Wright is mentioned as if he had withdrawn from his position as head of the United States Bureau of Labor. Doubtless many such slight inaccuracies could be found. On the whole, however, considering the extent of the work and the number of details, its accuracy is deserving of high praise.

Probably few Americans who are personally acquainted with the economists of America would agree in all respects with the classification that is made of American economists. When we reflect, however, that the main source of information must have been the published work of the persons mentioned and that alone, it seems that Professor Cossa is justified in almost every instance in the classification that he gives. The same criticism might well be made regarding economists in other countries. Much more than a knowledge of the books that a man has published is needed, to estimate properly his worth and position as a scientist. One, however, could not ask more from Professor Cossa than a knowledge of the works of the writers criticised.

As a compendium of titles and authors with brief characterization of the works, the book is almost indispensable; while as a general introduction to the subject (I do not mean an exposition of the principles of the science) it is easily the best that we have.

JEREMIAH W. JENKS.

*A Standard Dictionary of the English Language.* Prepared under the supervision of ISAAC K. FUNK, D. D., editor-in-chief. In two volumes. Vol. I. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1894.

Compared, as regards the definition of economic terms, with *Webster's International Dictionary of the English Language*. Being Webster's Unabridged Dictionary revised and enlarged under the supervision of NOAH PORTER, D. D., LL. D. Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1890.

There is nothing which gives the economist greater satisfaction than the present rapid increase in his reading and hearing public.

[982]