

on page 257 he apparently questions the wisdom of prohibiting the marriage of the feeble-minded. He may "well imagine the marrying of a well-to-do, mentally strong man and a high-grade feeble-minded woman with beauty and social graces which should not only be productive of perfect domestic happiness, but also of a large family of normal happy children." It is to be noted that none of the families presented in the book shows such results and that so far as evidence is concerned they remain purely imaginary. This sentiment is apparently in square opposition to the standpoint of most of the book. What America now needs is to recognize the certainty of a goodly percentage of feeble-minded in such marriages not the possibility of normality.

No person monopolizes good or bad traits. When we know more, we shall get better results. Society should study its physical make-up. The volume closes with a few words about present eugenic studies and an excellent bibliography.

Dr. Davenport has produced a work of great significance. The problems it raises are by no means all settled by the evidence offered. These questions are fundamental and it is pleasant to recognize that they are coming into their own. May we hope that this book is but the forerunner of many more.

CARL KELSEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Dickerson, Oliver M. *American Colonial Government, 1696-1765.* Pp. 390. Price, \$4.00. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1912.

The scope of this monograph is indicated by the sub-title "A study of the British Board of Trade in its relation to the American Colonies, Political, Industrial, Administrative." The author has made extensive researches in the manuscript records of the British Board of Trade and the Privy Council and in printed colonial sources. The results here presented are of value, not only for the history of this organ of imperial control, but also for the light cast upon various phases of American colonial and English institutional development.

The first third of the book is devoted to the organization and development of the Board of Trade. By a study of the personnel of the board and its relations to other administrative authorities in England a close connection is shown to exist between these two elements and the marked variations in the activity and influence of the board at different periods. It appears, furthermore, that after 1748 the board was more active and efficient under the presidency of Halifax than has been generally supposed. With regard to the diversely named committees of the Privy Council dealing with colonial affairs the interesting conclusion is reached that they are all one and the same; namely, a committee of the whole council designated by various titles.

The remaining chapters contain an account of the imperial and colonial policies of the board, their application to the American colonies, and the reasons for their success or failure. Here such topics are treated as trade relations, defense, Indian relations, and colonial expansion. The use of the royal veto on colonial legislation receives an especially illuminating discussion. Copious

footnotes, containing much illustrative material, a critical bibliography of books used, and an index complete a work which is a substantial contribution to the literature of the subject.

W. E. LUNT.

Bowdoin College.

Dingle, Edwin J. *Across China on Foot.* Pp. xvi, 446. Price, \$3.50. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1911.

Most countries have now been visited by tourists so often that they have become places in which there still lies interest for the traveler but no great chance of reaching regions unexplored. China, especially Western and Northern China, is an exception. Mr. Dingle's journey takes him through a region little known even to those most familiar with the Far East.

After a brief description of his trip up the Yangtze with its wonderful gorges, the author gives us practically the diary of his overland journey through the great rich inland provinces, Szechuan and Yunnan to Bhamo in British Burma. Most of this journey was taken on foot though "to save his face" Chinese custom demanded that a chair be carried by the attendants to show that travel afoot was not to be explained by lack of willingness and ability to pay for the cost of more luxurious travel.

Szechuan with its waving poppy fields, rich wheat harvests, and beautiful scenery furnishes a striking contrast to the squalor in which its people live. Wealth for the common people is unknown, comfort rare and cleanliness conspicuous by its absence. The misery of the people and the richness of the land stand in striking contrast.

Yunnan gives contrasts of the old and the new especially in mining. The old hand methods are giving way to German and English machinery. Already the consequences which will come with the approaching industrial revolution are beginning to make themselves evident. Southwest Yunnan the author found almost unvisited by white men. The description of the native tribes and their peculiar customs is the most interesting part of the volume. The Li-su, marauding tribes of Western Yunnan and the Shans and Kachins near the Burman border are all but untouched not only by Western but by Chinese civilization.

Mr. Dingle's book is not scientific. He makes no claim to being able to interpret what he sees in its historical relations but the descriptions are evidently by one who has a peculiar gift of appreciating what he sees and of interpreting it by contrast with more familiar western customs. The graphic word pictures are supplemented by over a hundred excellent reproductions from photographs.

No one can fail to find this book entertaining. It says the first word about some things and the last word about none, it leaves one's interest, as the author evidently intends shall be the case, not satisfied but aroused.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.