

REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE, with particulars of Publications received.

A. GENERAL WORKS AND PERIODICALS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY. New Series.
Vols. xx. and xxi.

THESE two volumes (well printed and neatly bound) are devoted to the more abstract problems of philosophy and psychology, and do not contain much that is of special interest to the sociologist. In Vol. xx, however, there is an acute discussion of a General Will by Mr. Morris Ginsburg, and a Symposium on the Problems of Nationality by Elie Halévy, Marcelle Mause, Theodore Ruysen, René Johannet, Gilbert Murray and Sir Frederick Pollock. This latter is remarkable for the absence of any suggestion that environmental factors play any part in the development of nationalities. Vol. xxi. contains practically nothing of immediate interest to the sociologist, though one or two papers which deal with the general problems of the scientific method deserve consideration.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED.

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW.
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY.
ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY.
ARCHIV FÜR SOZIALWISSENSCHAFT
UND SOZIALPOLITIK.
ECONOMICA.
THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL.
THE GEOGRAPHICAL TEACHER.
HINDUSTANI REVIEW.
INDIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS.
KÖLNER VIERTELJAHRSHAFTE FÜR
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN.
LE MUSÉE SOCIAL.
NATIONAL MUNICIPAL REVIEW.
THE OPEN COURT.
PROGRESS.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS.
REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIO-
LOGIE.
REVUE DE L'INSTITUT DE SOCIO-
LOGIE.
REVUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE
BRUSSELLES.
RIVISTA ITALIANA DI SOCIOLOGIA.
RIVISTA INTERNAZIONALE DI
SCIENZE SOCIALI.
SCIENTIA.
SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL
MAGAZINE.
STATISTIQUE GÉNÉRALE DE LA
FRANCE.
THE TOWN PLANNING REVIEW.
WELTWIRTSCHAFTLICHES ARCHIV.

E. RECORDS.

BOERENBOND BELGE: EXERCICE, 1920. RAPPORT présenté . . . par le Chanoine LUYTGAERENS, S. Th. B. Louvain, 1921.
ANTHOLOGIE de la LITTÉRATURE UKRAINIENNE . . . avec un avant-propos de M. A. MEILLET. Paris, Geneva, and Prague, 1921.

I. SOCIOGRAPHY.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION, by George O'Brien. Methuen, 1921.
(6s. net.) LABOUR IN TRANSITION, by Wm. Aylott Orton.
Philip Allan, 1921. (10s. 6d. net.)

THESE two books, though related in subject matter, are very diverse in outlook and method. LABOUR ORGANIZATION is an attempt to give a

summary account of the whole course of working-class association from the guilds to the modern co-operative societies, trade unions, and profit sharing, even including a few pages on guild socialism and collectivism. The book is not without merit, but the treatment of so wide a field is extremely slight and superficial, and it is difficult to understand for what class of reader it is primarily intended. Lacking bibliography, references and chronological table, it is not likely to be much use to the genuine student, and for the general reader (to whom it might be more serviceable) it is not sufficiently telling and attractive in style. There are serious omissions. The varying relation of the union to different industries ought to be brought out, and the various and highly important functions of the secretary described. And although Mr. O'Brien lays stress on the defensive aspect of trade union work, he omits to shew its historic importance as a means of securing workers against fraud in the payment of wages, especially in trades where payment takes the form of complicated piece rates, as in the textile industries, and in trades where "truck" was formerly prevalent.

MR. ORTON's book is very different. Here we have the enthusiastic student, striving to see his subject with true scientific detachment, eager for facts, helped rather than hindered by the strong human sympathy he evidently feels. The book treats of the relation of Labour to the War and to the revolutionary movement at home and abroad. It is not easy to see so complicated a subject in perspective, and to keep the wood in view as well as the trees, but Mr. Orton has achieved this extraordinarily well. He appears to have been in intimate touch both with the industrial and the fighting men and with officials, so much so that it is difficult for the reader to guess whether he himself served as soldier, munition worker, or administrator—all three at different times, perhaps. His work should be a classic. A good instance of his keen observation is to be found in his remark, after pointing out that the rise in the standard of living during the War has been exaggerated, that in the circumstances of the time an increase of leisure and better housing accommodation, those "prime desiderata," were unattainable, no matter what money was brought into the home.

IN his conclusion he talks straight to the unions, but even straighter to the employers, among whom he finds the sense of social responsibility "infinitely further to seek." The author views the present state of industrial militarism as an anachronism, the armed forces on either side being intent on making terms for their own side with little regard to the vital problem of supply, which in the modern world cannot be solved through the free play of economic forces. It is not quite plain what form the social and educational reconstruction hoped for is to take, except that the great industrial groups must obtain some definite constitutional connexion with the Government. Mr. Orton also lays it down that the political Labour Movement must take it in hand to "solve the great and truly staggering discrepancy between real and effective demand—the discrepancy by which at present appalling destitution and unprecedented productive capacity can co-exist in the same areas of the same country."

A FEW slips may be noted. On p. 135 Mr. Orton misquotes Mr. Cole, having already given the quotation in its correct form at p. 15. On p. 210 he refers to a living contemporary by her first name only, omitting prefix and surname, which is a trifle colloquial in a serious work. And the image of a nation "ridden by an ordeal" (p. xxiv.) is scarcely happy. These are minor blemishes; the book is a real achievement, especially if, as we surmise, Mr. Orton is at the beginning of his literary career and experience. He should go far.

B. L. HUTCHINS.