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Review

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Yet he seems unable to appreciate more than the one side he favours of debated questions. He is a robust advocate who would browbeat opposition. We may admit that the problem of securing an "indemnity," or "reparation" for the injury she has done, from Germany is a hard crux which may test the astuteness and need all the discretion of the Allied statesmen. But it is by no means certain that it cannot be met without repetition of the harm inflicted, or the menace offered, before the war by "peaceful penetration." Nor, as actual experience has shown, is it quite impossible for that slim manipulation of tariff-mongers, which Mr. Robertson hates and scorns, to contrive to exert a decisive influence on the kinds as well as the amounts of imports and of exports. Such apt discrimination differs of course from universal prohibition. It does not seem necessary to our economic welfare that our enemies should be supplied by us with raw materials, and that we should take their manufactured goods in payment of their debts. Since this very essay was written the armistice imposed upon our foes has followed on the speedier achievement of a more complete discomfiture than was once thought feasible; and the changing probabilities of the "peace" to be dictated require readjustment of the inferences then drawn. Concession, however, in the polemics of pamphleteering is uncongenial to a born fighter of Mr. Robertson's calibre and temper; and it would not be easy, or perhaps worth while, to dislodge his ingrained prejudice, which contrasts the "fundamental economic truths upon which Free Trade stands" with a "faction-dogma"—whatever that opprobrium may mean—like "tariffism"; or to shake the sanguine confidence which can assert and believe that, "if Britain plays the fool to the extent of "setting up a tariff, and there is any political wisdom left in Germany" after the war, "it will be to her interest to gravitate to "Free Trade as quickly as possible." Our author evidently thinks that movement likely to occur, while he has no doubt that "we are "already heading for the rapids." He appeals indeed loudly to "the democracy" to stop a policy which, he admits, has found "adherents in all three British Parties—Conservative, Liberal and "Labour." It has also, to his profound disgust, frankly declared in this small book, won the assent in war-time of the "avowed free "traders" of the "Balfour Committee." No circumstances will avail with him to condone such temporising; but one-sidedness may perhaps exert a bracing influence on firmer friends. He knows at least how to state a case with effect, and his outspoken partiality compels attention.

L.L.P.

9.—*Can We Compete?* By G. E. Mappin. x + 159 pp., 12mo. London: Skeffington and Son, 1918. Price 4s. 6d.

This small book, which receives in a "foreword" the balanced praise of a well-known man of business, is said on the title-page to deal with "Germany's assets in finance, trade, education" and "consular training," and to offer a "programme" for the "reduc-

"tion" of British "war-cost." That is an ambitious aim. The author, we are told in his Preface, has "studied at two German "technical universities," "worked in and visited German works," and "made the acquaintance of numerous German diplomats, "officers, officials, professors, businessmen and workmen." We may agree that the wholesome maxim, which the essay illustrates, laying stress on the material advantage of learning duly from our enemies what they can teach, has a special pertinence to the example set, or the model offered, in some important respects in trade and industry, and particularly in education, by the formidable foes we have now beaten on the battle-field where their superiority was most loudly boasted. Mr. Mappin, it should be remembered, wrote his book, "showing" their "strength," and "some methods for "ensuring their defeat" last July, before the Germans had been forced to acknowledge our decisive victory. The painstaking aptitude of German schemes and methods had been exhibited to all the world in many spheres of action; and there can be no question that they have been "scientifically" planned and executed. With the help of exact full knowledge diligently gathered and carefully digested, and of corresponding training in the precise minutiae of elaborate preparation, they were skilfully designed to reach by means mapped and measured to the last detail ends clearly envisaged and consistently pursued. The results, if not always to be commended, have often been remarkably successful, though the process conducting to this goal needed throughout authoritative direction and would not stimulate independence or permit much originality.

We are glad however to observe that Sir Robert Hadfield, recognizing that "many of the points" which are here raised "contain "useful suggestions," courageously protests that in "the teaching "of metallurgy" the University of Sheffield "has nothing to learn "from Germany"; and he thinks, rightly, that Mr. Mappin is a "little inclined to magnify the efficiency of the Germans." In further criticism we should add that, while the general plan of arrangement followed is somewhat discursive, the treatment of particular topics might in some cases be described as "sketchy." We cannot see that the essay fulfils obviously the purpose, which is announced, of supplying particular details of the reforms required, unless that object can be said to be achieved by bare lists or dry catalogues. Nor are the "proposals" offered for "co-ordinating "the five groups of interests which constitute our economic life"—"agricultural, industrial, commercial, labour and general"—actually so "definite" as the confident language of the author might suggest. He tries, indeed, to deal in a short space with so much of so varied a character that he is debarred from full discussion or satisfying explanation. Yet he is shrewd and alert; and his acquaintance with Germany and Germans is the outcome of direct appreciative observation. It is a first-hand personal study from which he draws the lessons he would convey to his own countrymen, if this is not entirely, as he claims, the earliest time that such material has been

placed before English readers. The book, however, has the great advantage of being opportune, and it evidently proceeds from strong deliberate conviction. L.L.P.

10.—Other New Publications.\*

*Bachi (Riccardo)*. *L'Italia Economica nel 1917*. xvi + 312 pp., 8vo  
Città di Castello, 1918. Price L.8.

[This useful survey is now in its ninth year of publication and is a valuable record of the economic conditions of Italy during 1917, in their commercial, industrial, agricultural and financial aspects. The book is divided into two parts, and contains a bibliography of economic publications, official and unofficial, issued during the year.]

*Berry (Lieut. Trevor B.)*. *An Appreciation of the League of Nations Scheme*. 192 pp., 8vo. London: P. S. King and Son, 1919. Price 5s.

[Although this little book is dated 1919 it was written before the armistice and has been rather overtaken by events. It represents the ideas of an "ordinary citizen and temporary soldier" on the real significance and essential conditions of a League of Nations, and emphasises the need for sacrifice on the part of each associated nation if a real world harmony is to be attained.]

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. *The Growth of Liberalism in Japan*. By Tsunejiro Miyaoka. 24 pp., 8vo. Washington, 1918.

[Two addresses given before the American and Canadian Bar Associations respectively and entitled (i) *The Safeguard of Civil Liberty in Japan* (ii) *The Growth of Representative Government in Japan*. The first describes, in thirteen pages, the provisions of the Japanese Constitution which secure the liberty of the person, privacy of correspondence, right of property, equitable taxation, freedom of speech, writing, association, public meeting, &c. The second is a concise account of the political transformation of Japan, tracing the chief changes which took place between 1867 and 1900. The oath taken by the late Emperor on the institution of the new regime in 1868 is quoted in full; its five remarkable sentences embody a general plan of government which has proved as practical as it sounds ideal, and are not unworthy of attention at the present day.]

*Cruig (Walter Lennox)*. *Sterling Decimal Coinage*. (Part of Part Two: interim copy.) 47 pp., 8vo. Maryport, 1918.

[The author lays stress on the difference, imperfectly recognised by the general public, between coins of account and coins of convenience, and points out that while in a decimal system the former must be fixed in a series of tens, the latter, used merely for giving change, are adaptable to any system which may be convenient for buying and selling, *e.g.*, to the binary system, which is that used in nearly all countries for the fractional purchases of the poor. A table is given of seventeen countries using fractional binary coins of exchange, and a strong case is made out for the retention of this system for the coins of convenience in any decimal scheme that may be introduced into the United Kingdom. The subject is developed in some detail, and several alternative series of decimal and submultiple coins are presented for comparison and consideration.]

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\* See also "Additions to the Library," page 277, *seq.*