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AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ECONOMICS

BY

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

WHILE there is on the one hand an ample supply of treatises on economic science, and on the other an abundance of books dealing with particular social problems, there appears to be a scarcity of general works that deal in small compass with the economic aspects of everyday social conditions. In this volume I have outlined the economics of the more urgent social problems in the hope that a broad survey may prove useful to the reader interested in these subjects, and serve as an introduction to further study in the more detailed and specialised works.

In writing this book I have assumed no previous knowledge of economic principles on the part of the reader, and have refrained as far as possible from using technical terms. For the student who wishes to inquire more fully into the various problems many references and a fairly representative bibliography have been provided.

I am under a deep obligation to Professor Sir William Ashley and Professor J. H. Muirhead, who read this work in manuscript and offered invaluable criticisms and suggestions. My sincere thanks are due to Mr. H. Hamilton, both for reading the manuscript and for his ready assistance throughout its preparation. I am indebted also to Mr. R. J. Thomson, who read the chapters dealing with labour questions and gave me the benefit of his experience in these matters, and to Mr. R. H. Coats for his kindness in revising the proofs.

I have purposely submitted the manuscript to persons of somewhat different opinion and outlook in order to derive criticism from more than one standpoint. Though I may not have succeeded always in keeping my personal views in the background, I have endeavoured to present judicially the pros and cons of the many controversial questions that necessarily arise in the course of the discussions.

H. A. S.

July 1925.

NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

During the past three years several important events have taken place both in social and in industrial affairs. In preparing the new edition I have taken the opportunity of re-writing many sections and of introducing some new matter on these developments so as to render the work as up to date as possible.

H. A. S.

May 1928.

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