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## CONTENTS.

	Page
TOPICS OF THE WEEK ...	205
<b>ARTICLES :—</b>	
The Butler Committee's Report ...	208
Pandit Kunzru on Hilton-Young Report...	209
Education in C. P. ...	210
Indian Students in Europe ...	211
OUR EAST AFRICAN LETTER ...	212
<b>REVIEWS :—</b>	
The Company's Financial Policy. By Prof. V. N. Godbole, M.A. ...	213
All About the Syrian Christians. By Miss A. Mathai, B.A. ...	214
SHORT NOTICES ...	214
<b>MISCELLANEOUS :—</b>	
East African Federation ...	216
BOOKS RECEIVED ...	216

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WITH a calm atmosphere created by the Report of the Fawcett Committee, everything was auspicious for a settlement of the minor disputes by the conference between the Sub-committee of the Millowners' Association and the representatives of Labour which had been working its way towards a solution of all the difficulties. The ostensible cause of the strike is the unwillingness of the Chairman of the Association to discuss an individual case of alleged victimisation by a personal examination of the operative and other witnesses called by the Girni Kamgar Union. This is certainly a very flimsy pretext for launching a most disastrous general strike of all the mill workers in Bombay. Coupled with this is a demand on the part of this Union that all the new hands working in the Wadia group of mills should be dismissed and be replaced by the old hands. The easiest way out of the difficulty would have been to accept Mr. Bakhale's suggestion that all cases of victimisation should be dealt with by a joint sub-committee. It is clear from Mr. Mody's statement that he was prepared to accept the suggestion if the Union would have endorsed it and the blame for throwing it out therefore wholly rests with the Girni Kamgar Union. The justification given by the Secretary of the Union in his letter addressed to the President of the Association for the extreme step of declaring a

general strike does not carry much conviction. It is very creditable to Dr. Ambedkar and to Mr. Bakhale that they made an earnest appeal at the meeting of the Textile Labour Union, to place all matters before the Joint Strike Committee in a conciliatory spirit and to refuse to be inveigled into a general strike. There is no doubt that a general strike of textile workers at this time is a disaster of the first magnitude, after the sufferings through which they have already passed during the last year. And it is even now not too late to settle matters in dispute by a reference to the already existing conciliation committees or to a joint sub-committee specially appointed for the purpose. A later statement issued by the Millowners' Association says that Sir Ness Wadia prepared to carry out a full investigation into the grievances of men said to be victimised and advantage should be taken of this offer. That the strikers should protest against a body working on sound lines like the Textile Labour Union shows how incapable they have shown themselves of recognizing their true friends. It is surmised that the Government will hurry through the rules and regulations to be framed in order to put the Trades Disputes Act into operation and announce the date on which the Act would come into force. But we believe that the wiser course would be to expedite matters by appointing a joint sub-committee already proposed and finish the enquiry instead of trusting to the speculative chances of a new piece of legislation. We hope that the spirit of reasonableness and mutual goodwill invoked by Mr. Ginwalla in his statement would be shown on both sides before the evil has spread very far and while yet there is time for retracing the steps taken by both parties. It is already apparent that the public have not much sympathy for those who are responsible for this latest strike partly on account of the want of approval of experienced Labour leaders. The most telling criticism against those responsible for the strike was that they had violated the pledge given to the Millowners that all questions in dispute would be referred to a committee. The assertion of the Girni Kamgar Union in their latest statement that the Millowners' motive behind their policy of aggression was to force upon the workers worsened conditions in respect of wages and discipline, in defiance of the recommendations of the Fawcett Committee which are favourable to workers is certainly a gratuitous assumption.

THE Simon Commission has safely reached London.

That is however not to say that its arrival there was unnoticed by Indian residents in that country.

Far from it. According to the London correspondent of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, "exciting scenes reminiscent of the arrival of the Simon Commission in Bombay and elsewhere were witnessed" in Victoria Station. An Anti-Commission demonstration was held in Hyde Park and a procession carrying black flags marched to the railway station. But it was held up by the police, though representatives of a not much known Association of Panjabis who wanted to show their appreciation of the Commission's labours had no difficulty whatever in getting entrance to the platform. The presence of the Prime Minister and that of a representative of the King on the platform to greet the Commission was not surprising. The absence of Dr. Paranjpye though in London on the contrary was noteworthy. Just as the visits of the Commission to different places in India left behind vivid traces in the arrests, detention and rough handling of well-known Indians, its arrival in London too has been attended by the arrest of three Indians and one Englishman who will in due course stand their trial for disobeying police orders. Five members of the Commission are candidates for election to Parliament and between now and the declaration of results of the General Election nothing very much will be heard of the Indian problem. If occasionally we hear something about it, it will be in spite of Sir John Simon who has made an appeal for India being kept out of party politics. For such attention as India will claim from British electors she has to be thankful to the indefatigable Dr. Besant who has left for England on that and that mission alone. As regards the Commission's report it will be ready only after the Central Committee had submitted its report and Sir John Simon has fixed the end of the year as the probable time when it may be expected to be ready. At this rate it is impossible that the new reforms can be promulgated much before the end of 1932 and there is no reason why the Indian legislatures should not see their normal end this year. Commenting upon the Commission's return the *Times* remarks that a good deal of the blame for the Indian hostility to the Commission must be borne by people in England. The paper attributes this to the failure on the part of the authorities to explain at the proper time the true nature of the task entrusted to the Commission which was merely the collection of information about Indian conditions. We think the *Times* is entirely mistaken if it is of the opinion that the Indian boycott of the Commission was due to any misapprehension on the part of Indians as to the nature of its work. If the commission's task was as insignificant as the *Times* makes it out to be, nothing whatever would have been lost by the association of a few Indians as its members rather than risking the opposition of the whole country owing to their exclusion from it.

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THE subjects of Kashmir have after all awakened to the need of organising themselves and have recently met in conference at Ludhiana. While there is no

doubt that such conferences should preferably be held within the limits of the States themselves they must be welcomed even if held outside, seeing the drastic restrictions on the holding of public meetings that obtain in most states. We note from the presidential address that forced labour has not yet become a thing of the past. There is extreme unemployment in the State and "every winter indigent and poverty-stricken Kashmir is migrate to British India to earn a mere pittance to meet the revenue demand." This is hardly complimentary to the State and we think that if, as suggested by the President of the Conference, a Labour Department were opened in the State it would do something to ease the unemployment situation. In spite of such efforts as the State has put forth to stop the traffic in women, it has not yet died out. This is a standing disgrace for the eradication of which the State must adopt drastic steps. People outside Kashmir may be surprised to learn that though Kashmiris have risen to the highest posts open to Indians in the Indian Army they are shut out from a career in the Kashmir Army itself. We fail to see any reason for this ban on the sons of the soil, so far as the Kashmir army is concerned and it is time the ban was lifted. The only point upon which the State may feel legitimate pride was the absence of any communal problem there. Friends of democracy will however be sorry to learn that there was no beginning even yet in the direction of the introduction of representative institutions, not to mention responsible government, in Kashmir. Unless the Kashmir ruler wishes to continue as an unmitigated despot, he must sooner or later share his powers with his subjects. The proper way of proceeding about the matter would be for the Maharaja to make a declaration in favour of the grant of responsible government to his subjects and as a beginning, establish a legislative council somewhat on the lines of the provincial councils in India.

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THE recent revision survey of the Baglan taluka in Nasik district is, as is well known, the subject of much dissatisfaction among the peasantry to be affected by it.

With a view to making independent inquiries a committee composed of Non-Brahmans recently went over the taluka and has come to the conclusion that "any increase in assessment is unjustifiable." In meeting the arguments advanced in support of his proposals by the Settlement Officer, the Committee expresses the view that the climate of the taluka is unhealthy and that scarcity of rain is the general rule. The fact that the agriculturists of the taluka are drawn away from the land to industrial towns like Bombay shows that agriculture in the taluka has ceased to pay. There are no other industries, not even cottage industries, to be met with in the taluka and the class of agriculturists is poverty-stricken. The report does not deny that there has been a rise in prices; at the same time it is no use disguising the fact that costs of cultivation have increased and that the productivity of the soil is gradually deteriorating. The personal inquiries made by the Committee on the spot have convinced it that the ryot is already overburdened with taxation and to add to his burden, as is proposed in the

Settlement Officer's report, would be extremely unfair. We hope the Government will give due weight to the conclusions of this Committee before they pass final orders on the Settlement Officer's report, as they propose to do shortly.

**PEACEFUL satyagraha by Hindu ladies on a large scale is such a rare phenomenon that we need not apologise for giving prominence to what may strike some at first sight as a matter of minor importance.** The incident we have in mind took place on the 23rd April at Sangamner in Ahmednagar district in the Bombay presidency when a religious procession banned most thoughtlessly by the authorities under section 144 Cr. P. C. was taken out by the ladies of the place numbering nearly two thousand, the men simply looking on. It would appear that as a result of strained relations between Hindus and Mahomedans such processions have for the last year or two been discouraged by the authorities. The same thing would have happened this year also but for the admirable tenacity and silent determination shown by the ladies. From beginning to end the affair was carried through with such complete freedom from disorder even under grave provocation by the police that we must say it reflects great credit on the ladies. It is disgraceful that the authorities instead of taking steps to ensure full liberty to every community in its religious performances should have availed themselves of the preventive sections of the law to stop such processions altogether. They also seem to be guilty of a serious error of judgment in thinking that the ladies' procession would be attended with any kind of violence. It was childish on their part not to have allowed the ladies to use the image of Hanuman for purposes of the procession. If they thought that by such means they could prevent the procession from starting, they could not have been more mistaken.

**HOW slow are some of the so-called enlightened princes in parting with their power in favour of their subjects is evident from the undemocratic constitution of the Bikaner Legislative Council which had a two days' session recently.** It consists of 45 members, only 18 of whom are elected by an indirect process of election. The Prime Minister is its President and the Council can only discuss, though it cannot vote on, the budget. The general practice is for the legislative body concerned to pass the budget before the beginning of the year to which it relates; but this year at any rate the Bikaner budget was placed before the the Legislative Council six months after the beginning of the year for which it is intended. For aught one knows, there may have been excellent reasons for the delay; but a body which is so casually treated and which has so limited powers as the Bikaner Legislative Council cannot be taken seriously by anybody, least of all by its own members and it is by no means surprising that the last session, was attended only by 50 per cent. of its total membership. The "ordinary" State revenue for the current year is expected to be Rs. 1,15,15,000 and "extraordinary", Rs. 49,29,338 with an estimated surplus of nearly Rs. 22½ lakhs. The Maharaja took credit some time ago for being content with a paltry 5 per cent. of the revenue for his privy purse. The *Young Rajasthan*, however, points out that if to the palace expenses are added the several other items in the present budget connected with the ease and comfort of members of the ruling family like repairs and extensions to palaces, preliminary expenses in

connection with the forthcoming marriage of the princess, etc. the proportion works out, not at 5 per cent. but at 22.6 per cent! By way of contrast it is interesting to note that education is allotted only Rs. 2 lakhs, medical relief even less and "works of public utility" only Rs. 27,267. But what is open to even greater objection is the contemplated imposition, in the words of the same paper, of a "compulsory contribution by the people towards the Heir-Apparent's wedding." We fail to see why when there is such a heavy surplus expected in the current year such an objectionable levy should have been considered necessary or why larger funds should not have been made available for the nation-building departments. On the other hand it is a matter for satisfaction that there is every intention to carry the reform of the separation of judicial from executive functions which has already been inaugurated in the State to its completion. We are also pleased to learn from the Prime Minister that "there was liberty of person, liberty of speech and writing and also freedom of meeting within the prudent bounds of law." This is rather vague and might mean anything in practice, from serious restrictions upon the holding of public meetings to their being held without any State interference. We wish the Prime Minister had been less sparing in the use of his words and had elucidated more fully these so called "prudent bounds of law."

**AT the annual general meeting of the Native Stock-Brokers' Association Mr. Shroff, the India's Financial President, exposed many of the defects of the Government's financial policy at the same time offering some good suggestions.** Mr. Shroff referring to strikes in Bombay expressed the hope that the recommendations of the Fawcett Committee would be adopted without contention; at the same time he exhorted the Labour leaders to recognise the evil consequences of strikes not only to Labour but even to stock-holders and to the cotton trade. He is in favour of the merging of the financially weak mills into the stronger ones in order to avert disaster; as an additional measure for securing prosperity he recommends the scrapping of the present agency system. Referring to the fall of 3½ p. c. paper, he warned the Government that if they persisted in offering higher rates of interest year after year the prices of existing loans would greatly decline; his recommendation therefore is that the Government should curtail their annual requirements for railways and other works involving a large capital outlay till such time as better opportunities are offered for borrowing at lower rates. Mr. Shroff expressed the opinion that the Government were manipulating the money market for their own ends. We think Mr. Shroff is right in believing that if the Reserve Bank had been in existence we should have witnessed to-day a far easier market. His explanation of the growing amount of Indian capital invested abroad is that the investors feel greater security abroad than in India which is in a disturbed condition; but he thinks this movement to be a temporary one which would pass away when tranquility was established. In this connection he took strong exception to the recent issue of Treasury Bills, which helped to create a tight money market. As a stock-broker Mr. Shroff is naturally averse to strife and disorder and welcomes the Trade Disputes Act. In doing this he is probably referring to the first part of the Act and not to the second one. Now that the Government have invited the views of the public bodies on the granting of a charter to the new Stock Exchange, Mr. Shroff is pretty confident that the body will receive a charter very soon.

### THE BUTLER COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Princes, in response to whose request the Butler Committee was appointed, have got little from its report. Their claim that mere usage or sufferance confers no rights upon the Paramount Power which they have not expressly signed away by agreement has been rejected by the Committee. Similarly, their claim that the supremacy of the British Government derives its sanction solely from and has no existence apart from treaties and engagements is also rejected. The Committee has asserted the right of the Paramount Power to interfere with the internal sovereignty of States if national interests require such interference, even though it may be unwarranted by the terms of treaties. It has thrown out as unsustainable most of the claims advanced by the Princes for the readjustments of financial and economic relations. Small wonder, therefore, that, anticipating this outcome of the investigations of the Committee, the Princes have been evincing a desire for some time past for a consultation with British Indian leaders, who after all might prove more favourable to their pretensions.

But the Committee has found against British India on a vital matter. It was claimed on behalf of the Princes that "the rights and obligations of the British Crown are of such a nature that they cannot be assigned to or performed by persons who are not under its control," for instance, an Indian government in British India responsible to an Indian legislature. This preposterous claim the Committee seems to have conceded. For it has recorded its "strong opinion" that, "in view of the historical nature of the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Princes, the latter should not be transferred without their own agreement to a relationship with a new Government in British India responsible to an Indian legislature." The historical survey of the relationship given at the beginning of the report lends no justification to the opinion here propounded. But before we examine its validity, let us realise what its implications are. It does not merely mean that, when further constitutional advance takes place in British India, the Political Department will have to be maintained under a non-parliamentary executive even when all other departments are transferred to the control of Ministers responsible to the Legislature. It implies very much more than that. It implies also that a parliamentary executive can have no control over the army or any other arm of defence. For the claim is that the whole relations of the States with the Crown must be managed by an executive which is under the direct control of the Crown; and it is a vital part of these relations that the Crown should protect the States against all internal and external enemies. The necessary consequence of this, as Sir Leslie Scott put it in the *Law Quarterly Review* for July 1928, is: The British Government as Paramount Power, having undertaken the defence of the States, has therefore undertaken "to remain in India with whatever military

and naval forces may be requisite to enable it to discharge that obligation. It cannot hand over those forces to any other Government—to a foreign Power such as France or Japan; to a Dominion Government such as Canada or Australia; nor even to British India". The implication is even more far-reaching than this. The Committee itself says at para. 48: "It follows (from the obligation of defence) that the Paramount Power should have means of securing what is necessary for strategical purposes in regard to roads, railways, aviation, posts, telegraphs, telephones, and wireless, cantonments, posts, passage of troops and the supply of arms and ammunition." The Committee here purports to say that the States must surrender control over these matters to the Paramount Power whenever necessary; but it is a necessary implication of the foregoing reasoning that just as the political relations and defence must be excluded from the control of a responsible government in British India, so also must be these other matters—roads, railways, posts, telegraphs, &c. in so far as they may be needed for strategical purposes. It will thus be seen what a large block of powers and functions which belong normally to a self-governing state is sought to be permanently removed from any parliamentary government that may come to be installed in British India in future unless the States graciously choose to waive their power of veto.

The States' power of veto is supposed to be implicit in the treaties and engagements which have been entered into with them. The Committee gives the most tenuous possible explanation as to how the treaties confer upon them this power. It says: "If any government in the nature of a dominion government should be constituted in British India, such a government would clearly be a new government resting on a new and written constitution." This is not quite accurate. The existing constitution, when it comes to be changed into a dominion constitution, will be no more "new" than when the Morley-Minto constitution was altered into the Montagu-Chelmsford constitution. Every one of these changes is a normal development from the former state of things. There is nothing sudden or unforeseen or unexpected in these changes. Nor is it quite true that, when self-government is established, power will be transferred by the British Government to "persons who are not under its control." In a sense, of course, the dominion Government in British India would be quite independent of the British Government in domestic concerns: but the British Government, when it will establish a dominion Government in India, will do so of its free will, and because it has confidence that all its undertakings will be faithfully carried out by the government to which it will hand over the reins of power, as faithfully, indeed as when the government is directly in its own hands. The British Government certainly cannot be denied the right to choose its own instruments for the fulfilment of its obligations; it can have no less a right to choose a parliamentary executive than it has to choose a non-parliamentary executive

as its agency for redeeming its undertakings.

This right can be challenged only if it is maintained, as Sir Leslie maintains, that "where it (the British Crown) has undertaken obligations and duties which have been thus entrusted to it by the other contracting party in reliance on its special characteristics and reputation, it must carry out those obligations and duties by persons under its own control, and cannot delegate performance to independent persons, nor assign to others the burden of its obligations or the benefit of its rights." The Committee does not express its agreement with this reasoning, as indeed it cannot, because there is not the slightest evidence to show that the States, when they entered into treaties with the British Government, relied upon the fact that the government in British India would never be made autonomous; on the contrary, the whole course of British history is a standing warning to all who enter into contractual obligations with the British Government in any of its outlying territories that the government of the country would pass in due time from an autocratic to a democratic form of government. The Committee, without endorsing this contention of Sir Leslie Scott, endorses the conclusion which rests solely upon that contention. The ridiculously untenable character of this contention can be best seen when the complication of colonial possessions is removed. Let us suppose that the British Crown accepted treaty obligations in respect of a certain power when the government in England was autocratic. Would the Crown be precluded, by reason of these obligations, from introducing constitutional government into the country on the ground that such government would not be under its control? The question is only to be asked to be answered in the negative. The position of British India or any other colonial possession is not different. Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer has dealt with the matter exhaustively in his *Indian Constitutional Problems*. He says:—

"The contention that the sovereign of a country who enters into a treaty does so in his personal capacity and not as the sovereign of that country is too absurd to be maintained in the twentieth century. Supposing the people of England chose to set up a republic in place of the constitutional monarchy, it cannot be contended that the treaties with the monarch would cease to be enforceable. Or again, let us suppose that the Queen of England was a despotic sovereign at the time of the treaties and she subsequently granted a parliamentary constitution to her people. Could it be said that the treaties would become unenforceable, because they were entered into with the Queen, or that she had no power to change the constitution of the country except at the risk of forfeiture of the benefits of the treaties? Could it be said again that the treaties of Indian princes were entered into with the British sovereign of the United Kingdom divorced from his sovereignty over his Indian territories? The matters governed by the treaty relate to persons and things in India and arise out of the relations of the Princes with the sovereign of British India, and it would be an unthinkable constitutional absurdity that the right to enforce the treaties should vest not in the authorities for the time being charged with the administration of India, but in some other country."

In the matter of adjustment of economic relations between British India and the States, the But-

ler Committee has mostly followed the line taken by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer in his book, which is adverse to the States. For instance it pronounces against the States' claim to be admitted to a share of receipts from maritime customs. This was the biggest claim advanced by the States; on other matters too the Committee's pronouncement is none too favourable.

The Paramount Power's right to intervene in internal affairs of States in its own interests beyond the terms of the treaties is once more asserted. Intervention in the interests of the people of the States is also vindicated and indeed promised. It is passages in regard to this latter kind of intervention that evidently fill Mr. Papatlal Chudgar with hope. It is said, e. g., that "the guarantee to protect a Prince against an insurrection carries with it an obligation to enquire into the cause of the insurrection and to demand that the Prince shall remedy legitimate grievances, and an obligation to prescribe the measures necessary to this result." Further, "The promise of the King Emperor to maintain unimpaired the privileges, rights and dignities of the Princes carries with it a duty to protect the Prince against attempts to eliminate him and to substitute another form of government. If these attempts were due to misgovernment on the part of the Prince protection would only be given on the conditions set out in the preceding paragraph (quoted above). If they were due, not to misgovernment, but to a widespread popular demand for change, the Paramount Power would be bound to suggest such measures as would satisfy this demand without eliminating the Prince." As there is no thought in any quarter of eliminating a Prince, but only of establishing constitutional government in his State under his aegis, the people of States can look forward to receiving countenance and support from the Government of India in their attempts. These in fact are the most hope-inspiring passages in an otherwise disappointing Report.

#### PANDIT KUNZRU ON HILTON-YOUNG REPORT.

THE eighth session of the East African Indian Congress has been a complete success in virtue of its powerful advocacy of the Indian case, necessitated by the Hilton-Young Commission's Report. At the outset Mr. Patel, Chairman of the Reception Committee, dwelt on the evils of a communal franchise and insisted on a Common Roll with a qualification franchise applicable to everybody. The non-acceptance of the common franchise by the Imperial Government at the dictation of a few White settlers should, he says, be interpreted to mean their inability to face the issue of adjusting the relations between White and Non-White races on equitable lines. He admitted the justice of the Native Policy advocated in the Report which would enable the natives to attain full citizenship in course of time. Mr. Patel expressed the hope that somebody from India will help them in putting their case before Sir Samuel Wilson; now that the Right Hon. Mr. Sastri is deputed on this express mission the wishes of East African Indians as represented by Mr. Patel have been amply fulfilled. Lastly he cited the various disabilities of the Indians in East Africa

including the inadequate representation of Indians on the various Government bodies and the Legislative Council.

Pandit Kunzru in his presidential address covered the whole range of the intricate problems presented by East Africa and pointed out avenues to an agreed solution which he said would be an example of high-minded statesmanship to the world. Referring to past history he showed how the Indian trader had been an important factor in the economic development of East Africa and it was a pity, he said, that in spite of his honourable connection the Indian should have to fight hard for his most elementary rights as citizen. Referring to the White Paper of 1923 Pandit Kunzru expressed satisfaction that the policy outlined in that document removed at least the danger of the control over the Kenya Administration passing into the hands of a White oligarchy. He criticized however the terms of reference to the Hilton-Young Commission which clearly reversed the policy laid down in the White Paper of 1923 and foreshadowed the giving of increased power to Europeans with a view to making them ultimately supreme over all other communities.

The fundamental basis of the Hilton-Young Report is the paramountcy of native interests and the trusteeship of the Imperial Government for preserving them; in accordance with this the control of government in Kenya by an elected majority of Europeans was ruled out by the Commission. Reviewing the Report Pandit Kunzru emphasized the contention of Sir Edward Hilton-Young that the only stable basis for the association of British immigrants with the Government is a majority of non-official Europeans in the Kenya Legislative Council of whom four shall represent native interests and said that it was not surprising that the proposal had been received with profound distrust by non-Europeans. As for the common electoral roll the Chairman of the Commission would leave the question to be decided in future and was unable to agree with the majority of the Commission that it was an ideal to be worked for. This scheme of a compact majority of non-official Europeans is described by Pandit Kunzru as unabashed racialism and he does not think that it would be conducive to stability or to smoothness of working. In any case the scheme is prejudicial to the interests of the Indian community. Although he admits that the Commission approves in principle the Indian demand for a common electoral roll and invites the High Commissioner to induce all the parties to accept it, he declares that there is scarcely anything in its proposals which is of direct advantage to the Indian community.

Pandit Kunzru then dealt with the attitude adopted by Kenya Europeans towards the Hilton-Young Report. He reminded the Kenya Europeans that there was an essential difference between the Dominions and a colony like Kenya which made their claim for the development of the colony on the lines of other British colonies inadmissible; in Kenya the withdrawal of the Imperial control meant the imposition of the rule of the British community over a large African population. As for the precedent of South Africa he said that nobody wanted that the racial problems of South Africa should be reproduced in Kenya. Pandit Kunzru did not think that western institutions and forms of government would be impaired unless the White settlers were granted responsible government. As for the argument that the Europeans under responsible government would enable the African to lead a higher life by bringing more civilizing influences within his reach

through a more rapid development of the colony, he quoted authorities to show that contact with Europeans had been far from a blessing in South Africa and the United States. Pandit Kunzru agreed with the Commission about the undesirability of handing over control to the Kenya Whites on the ground of its being incompatible with the basic facts of the situation. But his apprehension is that Sir Samuel Wilson may open the question of the future constitutional status of Kenya; on this he rightly said that to allow that matter to be re-investigated would be tantamount to appointing another Commission consisting of a single individual to enquire into matters already disposed of by the Hilton-Young Commission. This is certainly absurd when all this is done simply to placate the Kenya Europeans. The proposal of the Commission to substitute gradually, nominated Europeans in place of officials would, in his opinion, result in a neglect of Indian interests when Europeans would be in a majority as compared with Indians and officials put together. In such a case there would be continuous friction between the Executive and the non-official majority. On these grounds Pandit Kunzru declared the necessity of shelving the recommendations of the Commission. In case however the Report was adopted he suggested that the number of officials should not be reduced without consulting the Indian community and the Government of India. This is certainly a valuable suggestion and ought to be acted up to. Mr. Kunzru endorses the judgment of the Commission that equality of franchise between all races and a common roll was decidedly preferable to a communal electorate, because he said he was convinced that in that lay the only hope of bringing about inter-racial harmony. As for the Europeans being outnumbered he referred to the evidence of Indians before the Commission in which they affirmed their willingness to accept the restricted franchise limiting the Indian electorate to 10 p. c. of the population and deplored that the compromise was rejected by the Europeans. Pandit Kunzru believed that the federation in East Africa might lead to the domination of Tanganyika and Uganda by Kenya. As for the power proposed to be given to the Governor-General to coordinate native policy he says that uniformity should be secured by asking the less advanced administration of Kenya to follow the lead of the other two. In conclusion he said that the position assigned to Indians in East Africa had long been regarded by Indians as a touchstone of British policy, and he reminded those who were fighting for the maintenance of western ideals in Kenya that if they were proud of their imperial heritage their truest dominion should consist in the feelings of gratitude which they inspired in others. He assured the Indians in East Africa that the Government of India and the people of India would not disclaim responsibility for their welfare in case a solution were adopted which was not agreeable to them.

#### EDUCATION IN C. P.

THE impression which a perusal of the administration report of the Education department in C. P. and Berar for 1927-8 leaves on one's mind is that though compulsory education was actually introduced in a few towns and villages in the province, attention was mostly concentrated on the preparation of the ground for the same. Till the beginning of the year the Primary Education Act permitted the simultaneous application of compulsion to boys aged 6 to 11 or 7 to 12. An amendment of the Act passed during the year enabled local bodies to introduce compulsion in any area by stages without incurring the maximum expenditure. An officer was for eight

months during the year on the special duty of helping the larger municipalities to prepare schemes of compulsory education. Out of the large number of schemes prepared with his help and submitted to Government, only four were sanctioned, the rest being under consideration. A pamphlet was prepared and distributed to local bodies which gave guidance in the matter of the preparation of the schemes. During the year compulsion was introduced in two Municipal towns and in 52 villages. But we regret to observe that as in Bihar, local bodies do not show a proper appreciation of their obligations and responsibilities in enforcing a scheme of compulsion. Thus we find that local bodies are unwilling to prosecute offenders against the Act and attendance authorities are generally reported to be inefficient.

The number of educational institutions decreased by one from 5,422 to 5,421, though the number of scholars increased by over 15,500 from 399,289 to 414,874. Speaking about primary education alone, the number of recognised schools increased by 11 from 4,182 to 4,193 and the enrolment by 7,335 from 269,443 to 276,778. The want of proportion between the number studying in the first and the higher classes continues to cause disquiet to the authorities, 42 per cent. of the total number in primary schools being in class I; and the Director of Public Instruction is right in saying that "the money spent in educating the pupils who never rise above class I may be reckoned sheer waste." We wish that when criticising the indifference of members of local authorities and School Committees the Director had resisted the temptation of having a fling at "politicians." It is a source of satisfaction that "the establishment of village libraries, one in each district, attached to the vernacular middle schools under district council control, was sanctioned and necessary funds were provided to start the libraries in 1928-29.

The education of girls is apparently not making too rapid progress. The number of recognised schools for them increased by 3 from 385 to 388 and the enrolment by a little over 1000 from 26,194 to 27,395. There was an increase of only one in the number of Anglo-Vernacular schools for them which rose from 8 to 9 and the number of pupils from 820 to 949. As for primary schools, their number at the end of 1927-8 stood at 326 which was bigger by 2 than that for the previous year, the enrolment increasing by over 1000. All this represents progress, but at snail's pace. The report of the Committee to review the whole field of primary and secondary education of girls was considered by Government during the year and their decisions on its recommendations announced. With a view to conducting propaganda in favour of the education of girls the Committee recommended the establishment of a non-official publicity organisation "comprising a committee of ladies and a committee of gentlemen at Nagpur with subsidiary committees at district head-quarters and in municipalities." This suggestion found favour with Government and steps were being taken to carry it into effect. Other recommendations of the Committee seem to have been sympathetically considered by the authorities.

The backwardness of the depressed classes in educational matters is emphasised by the absence of any girl student of those classes in the high school classes in the province. The number of depressed classes pupils in receipt of instruction was 40,848 against 40,677 during the previous year. It is worthy of note that twelve students of these classes were enrolled in arts and science colleges, one in the Engineering School and 42 in normal schools. Popular prejudice against these classes is disappearing, though in some places the pupils of these classes

are made to sit apart from the rest. The remedy appears to be to withhold grants from those schools which observe such distinctions. Depressed class parents have not yet awakened to the value of education and are anxious to use their children for the purpose of adding to the family income or for tending the cattle rather than allowing them to continue in school.

## INDIAN STUDENTS IN EUROPE.

(From Our European Correspondent.)

DRESDEN, April 9.

### A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

FROM April 3rd to 9th the Indo-European Conference has been in session in this city. Dresden is reputed as a music centre, and it is well-known also as a meeting place for international conferences. But even for such a place, the Conference, as the Mayor of the city put it in a discourse during one of the several official functions in connection with the gathering, created a sensation. The attention which the authorities showed the company perhaps accounts for this. Not only did the Government of the Reich send a message of greeting, a rare courtesy, but in addition to putting the Lingner castle, a magnificent building on the outskirts of the city commanding a superb view, at the disposal of the Conference, the authorities of the state of Saxony as well as those of the city of Dresden showed lavish hospitality. A particular instance typical of the general spirit which prevailed throughout the Conference may be mentioned here. At the official luncheon in the Town Hall, Dr. Datta, the chairman of the Conference, said that even as the young people of India and Germany had come together, the elders would also come together, for, those engaged in municipal administration in India had need of studying German methods, and very soon the Mayor announced that as a result of consultation with his counsellors he was in a position to offer six months' hospitality to an Indian who came to Dresden for any such study.

The idea of this Conference came from Mr. James Parkes, the secretary of the International Student Service in the department of cultural co-operation. Mr. Parkes, I must add in view of the trouble he took in this connection, is an Oxford graduate brought up in the traditions of the Student Christian Movement, and typical of at least one set of British university men who are determined to do their bit in undoing the wrongs of British imperialism. The Conference was fixed at Dresden because the town is the headquarters of the *Wirtschaftshilfe*, the famous German student organisation, based on the self-help principle and owing its inception to the effects of the post-war economic conditions on the student community. Some idea of the scope of this marvellous enterprise may be obtained from the fact that its total average annual budget amounts to about nine million Marks, nearly three quarters of which comes from the State, and over a fifth of the entire number of German students are touched by it. In organising this Conference at Dresden the obvious purpose of the I. S. S. was to acquaint Indian

students in Europe with the *Wirtschaftshilfe* so that on the one hand there may be greater co-operation between European and Indian students, and on the other, the subject of organising self-help and cultural co-operation work among students in India may receive adequate attention. Thanks to the I. S. S. as well as the representatives of the *Wirtschaftshilfe* such as Dr. Selig, Dr. Schairer and Dr. Kullmann, the Conference was an entire success. It has established a tradition which is bound to grow and it meets needs long felt.

One result of this meeting to which all who participated in it can definitely point is the contact established between the German and Indian students' groups. In Germany, more than anywhere else in Europe, owing to the appearance of the Youth movement and such other forces, the student organisations have a very great influence, and in coming under it our young people gain a great deal.

Secondly, as Mr. Ranganadham of the Gower Street Indian Student Hostel in London explained at the Conference, the time had come for taking stock of the situation of Indian students in Europe. There were 2,000 of them annually dispensing the formidable sum of three quarters of a million sterling. Only 150 of them, mostly of the poorer class, at present went to Continental Universities, the rest of them congregating in British Universities, principally London. They had no organisation of their own worth speaking about, the Cromwell street hostel was suspected owing to Government surveillance of which the Conference had much to hear. The Gower Street hostel also had its limitations owing to its being a Y. M. C. A. institution, although by resorting to it in such large numbers Indian students showed their confidence in it. It was, however, unable to meet increasing demands and the Indian students were also ill served by the Government-appointed Advisers whether in India or Great Britain. In India these were hopelessly out of date and in both places for the most part they were unsympathetic Anglo-Indians. There was also the important point of racial prejudice which prevailed in Great Britain to a very large extent to be taken into consideration. Attractive openings were growing fewer and fewer for the England-returned student, and if social contact which was such an important element in considering the vitalising influence of foreign education was also absent, there was little use in coming to Europe.

Thirdly, there was the problem, as the President put it, of turning the student community in India which was at present a world-liability into a world-asset. This situation was due to a variety of causes not all of which were under their control. But it was open to them to study it and to see to what extent student self-help and cultural cooperation enterprises could be initiated in India. Accordingly the Conference proceeded to take steps to set up an investigation into Indian student centres in Europe as well as in university centres in India, and these reports will be considered in the Second Indo-Euro-

pean Student Conference which will be held in April 1930, probably at Basel.

### OUR EAST AFRICAN LETTER.

( From Our Own Correspondent. )

NAIROBI, April 2.

#### THE CONGRESS.

PERHAPS the most momentous session in recent years of the East African Indian National Congress opened in Mombasa on the 13th inst. The President-Elect, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, M. L. A., Vice-President, Servants of India Society, arrived in Mombasa from India a week earlier, and was accorded a right royal welcome being presented with an address of welcome by the Mombasa Indian Association. In his reply, Mr. Kunzru emphasised the fact that whatever be the differences that divided the various political parties in India, on the question of Indians overseas and in particular in East Africa, all parties and the Government of India as well, were absolutely unanimous, and in full sympathy with the cause of Indians in East Africa. Solidly and doggedly India was behind their struggle to vindicate British ideals of equality of political opportunity for all British citizens, irrespective of race, colour or creed, which were being trodden in the dust by the un-British settlers in Kenya.

Mr. Kunzru discussed the situation created by the publication of the Closer Union Report with the leading Indians in Mombasa and left for Nairobi, the storm centre, on a similar errand. After meeting both European and Indian leaders in Nairobi, he returned to Mombasa on the 13th to preside over the Congress. Mr. A. B. Patel, Bar-at-Law, President of the Indian Association, Mombasa, and Chairman of the Reception Committee, opened the proceedings in a telling speech in which he made out, among other matters, an unassailable case for a common civilisation franchise and electoral roll, and requested the Government of India to send out competent men from India to strengthen the hands of local Indians in their constitutional fight. The President in his masterly address conclusively refuted the claims and demands of a handful of British settlers to be made undisputed masters of Kenya, to be allowed to impose their none too unselfish rule on other immigrant communities and on the native populations, and to be permitted to indulge their racial pride to the economic and political detriment of the other communities. The influence of the European settlers in the Government of Kenya is already too great and had been used to exploit the other communities; it should therefore not be increased. There should be no talk of self-government as long as the trusteeship of the British Government for the welfare of the natives lasts, until the wards come of age and take over the government of the country. He hoped that Sir Samuel Wilson would not reopen that question. In striking contrast with the attitude of the European settlers, who rejected the whole report and with it the theory of trusteeship for the welfare of the natives, unless their own selfish demands for self-government were granted, stood the attitude of the Indian community, who, though the Report did not advance their position, and left even the Commission's considered preference for a common roll to the mercy of the settlers, declined to take a parochial view of the Report, but rallied in support of its recommendations regarding native trusteeship.

Pandit Kunzru put in a forceful plea for the common roll and suggested certain safeguards to protect Indian interests when the High Commissioner was appointed. The Central Authority should be required

to consult his Advisory Council, on which Indians should be adequately and effectively represented, on all racial matters, and the members of the Council should be free to appeal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in cases of difference of opinion. After finishing his English address which was received with acclamation, the President summarised it in Hindi for the benefit of those who followed Hindi better.

The Congress, after careful consideration in the subjects committee, passed very important resolutions on the 14th and 15th. The Congress welcomed native trusteeship, approved of the rejection of the demand of the White settlers for responsible government, and desired the Imperial Government to retain in its hands the responsibilities for the trusteeship of the natives, but if it was decided to associate Europeans in the discharge of these responsibilities, it insisted on the association of Indians as well. It recommended that the native policy in Kenya should be elevated to the level of the more enlightened native policies in Uganda and Tanganyika, and resisted any increase in the influence of the European settlers in the Government of Kenya directly by increased representation or indirectly by the nomination of Europeans to represent native interests, and asked for the retention of the official majority in the Kenya Legislative Council. While accepting closer union for economic purposes, it opposed any scheme for political federation or union. It welcomed the support that the Commission gave to the principle of common franchise and electoral roll and desired the Government to promulgate it without making it conditional on the approval of the White settlers. It desired that native opinion should be consulted before their representatives were nominated.

As regards the High Commissioner, it demanded that before any action was taken on his report, it should be published for public criticism; that Indians should be adequately and effectively represented on the Advisory and other Councils in East Africa and London, that members of these councils should be free to appeal to the Secretary of State in cases of difference of opinion and that one of the private secretaries of the Central Authority should be an Indian officer from the superior civil services in India.

The Congress appointed an influential deputation, with the President of the Congress as leader, to draw up a Memorandum for presentation to Sir Samuel Wilson, and requested the Government of India to send out a delegation to assist the Indians to present their case when the High Commissioner was appointed.

The Congress was solidly and unanimously in favour of continuing the abstention from participation in the Legislative and Municipal bodies as a protest against the communal roll and although the special circumstances of the composition of the Mombasa Municipal Board did not preclude Indians participating in its work, still co-operation was to be withheld to add point to the protest against the communal roll.

Among other resolutions were those requesting the Government of India to secure an enquiry by an Indian educational expert into the state of Indian education in East Africa, to secure an investigation by an Indian agricultural expert of areas in East Africa suitable for Indian agriculturists, to appoint an Indian Trade Commissioner in East Africa and to organise an East African information and publicity bureau in India.

The Congress passed resolutions expressing its gratitude to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P. O., and the Servants of India Society, to Messrs. Andrews and Polak, to Lord Olivier and Sir Robert Hamilton,

for their very valuable services to the cause of Indians in East Africa. Another resolution appreciated the very great support and assistance that the Government of India gave and continued to give to East African Indians.

In his closing remarks the President made a stirring appeal for co-operation between the races and for more vigorous and sustained efforts, on the part of Indians commensurate with the magnitude of the struggle they had to face and the cause they stood for. Thus concluded a very successful and momentous session of the Indian Congress.

#### MR. SASTRI

It is significant that despite the adverse criticism passed at the mass meeting of Indians at Nairobi on the 7th inst. on Mr. Sastri for alleged disservice to Indians in Kenya and for alleged remarks disparaging the capacity of Kenya Indians, the Congress at Mombasa passed a resolution expressing "its deep sense of gratitude to the Right Hon'ble V. S. S. Sastri" for "invaluable services rendered to the Indians in East Africa." The resolution was moved by Mr. B. S. Varma, the Chairman of the Kenya Central Indian Association.

#### EUROPEAN OPINION.

The departure of Lord Delamere for England *viz* South Africa and the defection of Mombasa Europeans have considerably weakened the morale of the up-country settlers, and there is reason to believe that they will climb down a step or two. They are not likely to press their demand for the repudiation by the Imperial Government of the fundamental conceptions of the Closer Union Report regarding the impracticability and undesirability of shaping the constitution of Kenya so as to lead to responsible government; they are likely to press for and be content with an unofficial European majority, instead of an elected European majority. Though there is no sign of a compromise on the question of the common roll, it is significant that the *East African Standard* commenting on Mr. Kunzru's presidential address, said, "By patient negotiation such a bridge may yet be found." Amen!

#### REVIEWS.

##### THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

INDIAN FINANCE IN THE DAYS OF THE COMPANY. By Pramathanath Banerjee (Macmillan.) 1928. 8¾ x 5½. pp. 392. 12s. 6d.

BEING based on official records, including Parliamentary Papers, the volume is an authoritative exposition of the financial system in the days of the East India Company. Dr. Banerjee has brought out the most salient points of the system by means of a careful presentation which helps the reader to avoid the confusion due to an anomalous system of administration. The first important change is the entire separation of the political affairs of the Company from the commercial by the Act of 1813, as also a separation of the two accounts. One most serious evil in the early days was the application of the revenues of India for purchasing goods for exportation to England. As late as 1860 there was no budget system and there was no one officer charged with viewing the expenditure of the State as a whole. The chapter on deficits is immensely interesting; it gives full details of the ebb and flow of the finances of the three Presidencies. Out of 66 years from 1793 to 1860 only 18 were years of surplus. In reviewing the history of public debt Dr. Banerjee protests against the injustice of mak-

ing India pay the debts for which the commercial charges of the Company and the expenses of the various campaigns were primarily responsible. As an item of the tax system of India, the land revenue is discussed in great detail. We do not find in the discussion however the author's definite judgment on the Permanent Settlement, a question likely to rise into prominence now that the principles of settlement of land revenue are on the anvil; probably the lacuna is explained by the historical character of the volume. It is significant that as early as 1853 many of the witnesses before the Select Committee emphatically condemned the salt tax; it represented nearly 10 per cent. of the total income of India towards the close of the rule of the Company. An excellent resumé is given of the history of the customs duties and the inland customs including town duties. The question of Indianisation arose as early as 1833 with regard to the efforts made to stop the growth of civil expenditure and the author shows how the section of the Charter Act of 1833 laying down that no native-born subject shall by reason of his religion, descent or colour be disabled from holding any office under the Company remained a dead letter owing to the unwillingness of the Directors to give up their patronage. Dr. Banerjee attributes to Lord Wellesley the policy of Europeanisation of the higher services, the result of which was to depress the children of the soil and to make the administration enormously expensive. A large item of civil expenditure was the interest on the public debt which in 1858 was nearly £2½ millions in spite of a fall in the rate of interest. With regard to military expenditure the Directors pointed out in 1808 that the Company incurred heavy expenditure on account of the great increase in the number of the King's troops sent to India, since it was provided by the Act of 1793 that all actual charges on account of these were henceforth to be borne by the Company. Dr. Banerjee's final judgment with regard to expenses of the Army and the Navy is that they were so large because they were incurred for the purpose not so much of defence as of aggression. Thus the history of the growth of military expenditure furnishes, as he says, the key to the financial policy of the East India Company. The volume is a veritable mine of detailed information about the finances of British India before the Mutiny.

V. N. GODBOLE.

#### ALL ABOUT THE SYRIAN CHRISTIANS.

**ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIANS.** By L. K. ANANTAKRISHNA AYYAR. (Cochin Government Press, Erackulam). 1926. 24.5 cm. pp. 338.

THIS book gives us an opportunity to study the history, customs, manners, religion, etc. of the Syrian Christians from very early days. Books written about them are few. The author has lived among the Syrians of Cochin State and studied them very carefully. He has also studied all the articles, books and records available. He writes about the Syrians of Cochin State more in detail than about the Syrians of Travancore. In this connection I might say that there is some difference between the Syrians of the two states. Those of Cochin are more conservative and, generally speaking, less advanced in education. Although the author speaks mainly of the Romo-Syrians he does not neglect to speak of the difference between them and the other sections of the Syrians.

In the first three chapters the author speaks about the history of the Syrian church. The first of these chapters deals with the traditions about St.

Thomas and the various churches founded by him. The chapter dealing with the social status of the Syrians in former times is very interesting. They had a high military status and were once very powerful in the two States. "The Syrian Christians were almost on a par with their sovereigns. They were allowed to have a military force of their own! A native prince was respected or feared by his neighbours according to the number of Syrians in his dominions."

The next three chapters deal with the marriage customs among the Syrian Christians. The author shows how the community has been influenced to a great extent by their Hindu neighbours. But as he himself says, "Many of the customs taken from Hindus have now almost disappeared on account of Christian influence and Western culture and partly with a view to exercising economy." Religion is dealt with in the next three chapters. Saint worship and image worship is a part of Romo-syiran worship but not a part of the worship of the reformed and C. M. S. Syrians.

The Syrians form an agricultural community but they are to be found in every department of life. "They are no less organisers with high organising capacity. They are engaged in all walks of life."

The last two chapters deal with the Roman Catholics of the Latin Rite. These are found mainly in the ports of the two states. Generally they are not included among the Syrian Christians. They are the descendants of the converts by the early Portuguese Missionaries. Their dress and manners show that they are different. The chief sections of Syrian Christians are (1) The Romo Syirans, (2) The Jacobites of the Patriarch's Party, (3) The Jacobites of the Metran's Party, (4) Mar Thomas Christians, and (5) The Church of England Syrians. It may be stated that the book contains a large number of interesting photographs.

Every Syrian who is anxious to know the early history, customs and manners of his ancestors and every one who is interested in the Syrian community should possess a copy of this book. It is a very interesting study of the community.

A. MATHAI.

#### SHORT NOTICES.

**THE FAMINE IN SOVIET RUSSIA. 1919-1923** (Macmillan, New York.) 1927. 8¾ × 6. pp. 609. 21s.

THE book gives the detailed history of the famine conditions in Russia that followed the revolution of 1917 and the story of the Relief Work organised by the American Relief Administration. The failure of rains in 1920 and 1921 over vast areas resulted in a very severe famine. Many other factors such as the failure of industries, the decline in power and prestige of the Provisional Government, the collapse of the whole transportation system and the widespread unemployment, made the famine disaster more appalling and the measures of relief more difficult. Appeals were sent to the Allies such as the United States of America, France and England. Mr. Hoover of the United States of America took up the cause of famine relief in Russia and organised the American Relief Administration during the great famine of 1921-22. Mr. Hoover could secure generous grants from the Congress to the tune of \$20 million in the first instance and similarly large donations later on, for food remittances, for medical supplies and for clothing. Several public bodies also came forward with very handsome donations. The total expenditure for the Relief measures amounted to over \$61

million. With such financial help Mr. Hoover organised units of actual workers who went into Russia and distributed the relief to millions of starving and hungry peasants with their wives and children. But even in such humanitarian work, quite unnecessary doubts and suspicions postponed the starting of the relief measures and it was with great difficulty that Mr. Hoover was able to overcome the Soviet opposition, remove the misunderstanding of the other nations and secure their cooperation and assistance. In addition to this great organisation of American Relief Administration a large number of smaller organisations were affiliated to this central body, who also administered famine relief. Numerous appendices add to the value of the book, which give in detail the various agreements, statistical information, personnel of the A. R. A. The story of the relief measures is written in a very attractive and interesting style, and would prove very useful and instructive to social and political workers.

N. V. KANITKAR.

**WOMEN IN BUDDHIST LITERATURE.** By BIMALA CHURN LAW. (W. E. Bastian & Co. Ceylon.) 1:27. 8½ × 5½. pp. 128. About Rs. 2.

HERE we have a book in which the learned author tries to give us a picture of women as represented in ancient Buddhist literature. The author has not confined himself to the survey of Pali literature only but has abundantly referred to Buddhist Sanskrit literature also. He has thus before him a very long period extending over a thousand years. He tells us about the "marriage" conditions of women and their social conditions as represented in the classes of slave girls and dancing girls. The character sketch of women as drawn in Buddhist literature is unhappily irreconcilable with the modern conception of woman, though we can very well realize why the Buddhist authors trained in the ascetic tradition of the religion were so harsh upon woman as to call her the most fickle, wicked and disloyal creature leading man towards a state of damnation and hell.

In spite of this dark picture of women, we are told that the women of those times forced the Great Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, to institute a new class of religious women. Gautama Buddha was with great difficulty prevailed upon to sanction the establishment of the new institution called the 'Order of Nuns' and we are given a long list of names of women who were considered to be pious and wise and who were held in high esteem by the people.

Though we cannot always agree with the conclusions of the author as e. g. when he says that the Purdah system was common among ancient Buddhist women, he has given a substantially correct picture of women as represented in Buddhist Literature and we have no hesitation in commending this book to students of ancient Indian society.

P. V. BAPAT.

**HOW TO KEEP YOUNG.** By EDWIN WOOTON. (Heinemann.) 1928. 7½ × 4¾. pp. 117. 3s. 6d.

FROM times immemorial bodily immortality has been the cherished hope of humanity. Though this is obviously impossible of fulfilment, perpetual youth promises in the near future to be a matter of common occurrence, thanks to the progress of science. This book gives an explanation of the "known facts of human physiology and the known laws operative in death from old age." The author has treated the physiological aspect of this question

in a simple and impressive manner avoiding as far as possible its technical side. A thorough study of human physiology reveals the causes of senile decay, a timely detection of which would make it possible to abort that insidious process of the destruction of life. No drugs have been so far found which make bodily rejuvenation possible; but a study of endocrinology and those mysterious products—the vitamins—would enable one to keep oneself in health. Special chapters are devoted to these subjects and also to psycho-analysis which is required to complete the knowledge of human physiology.

R. A. RAIRKAR.

**ON TRUST.** By E. W. SAVL. (Hurst & Blackett.) 20cm. Pp. 288. 7s. 6d.

"ON TRUST" is not such an innocent book as it appears at first sight. It harbours a dangerously conceived theme developed with the aid of revolutionary social ideas. Anglo-Indian life in its true setting is what we find in it. Far away from his home, the Anglo-Indian planter or official makes his pile in uncongenial surroundings "full of seething masses of dusky humanity." His Memsahab puts on "mountains of flesh, so it must be the food—there is always so much going" for them in this generous country. At first, the unfortunate exile imports into India a light-hearted flapper from England to be his wife and to give him a taste of his home. This new arrival accustomed to regard herself as a free, unrestricted pleasure-hunter in high skirts and bobbed hair, formally weds him for the sake of keeping up appearances and gets all the romance necessary for her sustenance from outside sources. This curious state of affairs follows as a result of securing wives of the new generation by correspondence. The stale old-fashioned wife on the other hand becomes an intolerable snob and a scandal-monger, manipulating divorces from behind the teacup. "On Trust" gathers into its net all such Anglo-Indian fish—the unscrupulous pickpocket of wives, the confirmed drunkard, the district official who is too much of a "ruler" to be human, the harmless flirt, the chaste wife about whom thereby hangs a tale. Julian Orme is a member of this motley crowd—a person of the finest sensibilities. During his voyage to India he meets the correspondence bride of a heartless Don Juan who no sooner she lands shatters her rosy dreams. Julian befriends her and marries her. Suddenly an enemy—his first wife—believed to be dead, breaks in upon their happiness and almost threatens to reduce Hilary to the unenviable position of a husbandless wife. The story flows on thus and holds the reader's breathless interest. There are many vigorous ideas scattered broadcast in it which mildly upset our conscientious self-complacence.

K. V. R.

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN CHINA, 1911-1927.** By FREDERICK WHYTE. (The Association for International Understanding, London.) 1927. 8½ × 5½. pp. 46. 1s.

IT is creditable on the part of the Association for International Understanding to have kept an authentic record of events connected with the disturbed state of affairs in China and published it. It was on November 9th 1911 that Sun-Yat-Sen, the father of Modern China, proclaimed the doubtful Revolution. On January 1912, he became the president of the infant Republic. In February of the same year he resigned the presidentship in favour of Yuan-Shi-Kai. Thenceforward China plunged deeper and deeper

into turmoil. Canton entered upon a fratricidal war with Peking and warlords sprang up like mushrooms. In such a stormy weather Sun-Yat-Sen succeeded in getting himself re-elected as President of the provisional Government on April 4, 1921. He died on March 12, 1925 having half finished his glorious work. On March 4th 1927, long after this catastrophe, Dr. Wellington Koo made the joyful pronouncement that China was at last freed from the old oppressive treaties. The internal strife however continued as vigorously as before. At last on September 19, 1927 an independent and united Government of the entire Chinese nation was formed, the power being vested in a Committee of five, the "Yuan" as it was called. A most useful guide to the students of Modern Chinese history.

O. T. N.

**REPORT OF THE MILL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, AHMEDABAD, FOR 1927-28.** (The Association, Ahmedabad.) 1929. 13×8¼. pp. 169.

THIS is a record of the useful activities of the Association during last year; and if one wanted to know its mind on some problems connected with industry that engaged public attention during the last twelve months, there can be no more authoritative means of doing so than this report. The Association would do well to consider whether it cannot do something to make its annual reports more attractive and handy.

S. P. T.

**RULES OF THE ROAD.** By J. S. N. SEWELL. (S. P. C. K.) 1928. 19cm. pp. 159. 2s. 6d.

EVERYTHING in this world from a bath-chair to a church is capable of metaphorical rendering in the hands of a professional curer of souls. Well-versed in this art, Mr. Sewell reads a long homily to the young chauffeur of the magnificent car of life. There are two royal roads along which this vehicle can pass, the one which is easy and as smooth as smoothness can be but it leads plump into the jaws of hell,—the other perhaps a bit too narrow for the car, full of bewildering windings and mazes, and such perilous hollows to boot on either side as almost gape devouringly,—at its infinite end lies heaven, the ultimate reward of a good driver. There are no milestones to denote the distance covered by the car, nor even the faintest suggestion as to where one is about. The soul is all its guide and all may go well with it if a few missionaries take possession of the steering wheel. They are the qualified path-finders as their degrees in divinity will testify and when not entirely under the theological influence, they have some very good advice to give the pilgrim of life, soul or no soul. "Don't stuff yourself with bags of filth which is in polite society called by the name of sweets. Don't make experiments on yourself" are two out of a choice string of sayings of worldly wisdom issuing from Mr. Sewell's pen.

Thus far it is exhilarating to listen to Mr. Sewell who in perfect good humour warns the youngster against being unsportsmanlike. But when from this mundane topic, he rises into the realm of the Divine and strains the analogy of the motor car to bursting point, he is altogether incomprehensible. Religion is with him as with all dreamers like him, a matter of keeping safe from sin and temptation, in other words behaving so as to secure God's good

certificates. "Choose between Christ and all the rest of the false gods", says the pious Christian. "Otherwise on the day of judgment the true God will gather into his garage the Biblical motor-cars and condemn those which persist in following heathen beliefs."

K. VENUGOPAL RAO.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**EAST AFRICAN FEDERATION.**

*Commenting on Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to East Africa, TRUTH says:—*

"Sir Samuel Wilson, Permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies, is going to East Africa to see whether some generally acceptable scheme for the closer union of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika cannot be evolved out of the recommendations of the Hilton-Young Commission. As was foreseen, the most formidable difficulty is the attitude of the dominant party among the White settlers in Kenya, who hanker after responsible government and full control of native policy. They refuse to give up this idea and threaten "more vigorous action" if the Imperial Government attempts to thwart their ambitions. The threat is a characteristic example of methods by which these settlers have more than once been permitted to overawe the administration. It is noteworthy that the British community at Mombasa, perceiving the commercial advantages which would ensue from the closer union of the three territories, has dissociated itself from the menacing manifesto of the representatives of the settlers at Nairobi. It is, of course, out of the question that the small White community in Kenya can be allowed power to deal as they may deem fit with the vast native population for which the Imperial Government has accepted the principle of trusteeship. Indeed, as the Commission indicated, they have already been conceded much more influence in matters of native policy than accords with the strictly constitutional position. It remains to be seen whether Sir Samuel Wilson will be able to persuade the settlers to abandon or modify their aspirations. If he is not, it will be necessary for the Government to take a firmer course than it has done on previous occasions."

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

- CAUSES OF INTERNATIONAL WAR.** By G. LOWES DICKINSON. (The Swarthmore Press, London.) 1928. 18cm. pp. 110. 2s. 6d.
- THE KUOMINTANG AND THE FUTURE OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.** By T. C. WOO. (Allen & Unwin.) 1928. 22cm. pp. 273. 15s.
- PEACE YEAR BOOK, 1929.** (National Council for Prevention of War, London.) 18cm. pp. 123. 1s.
- THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES SINCE 1905.** By BENQY KUMAR SARCAR. (B. G. Paul & Co., Madras.) 1928. 20cm. pp. 377. Rs. 4.
- SEX AND YOUTH.** By SHERWOOD EDDY. (Association Press.) 1928. 18cm. pp. 150. 3s.
- INDIA'S HOPE.** By FRANCIS HENRY SKRINE. (Thacker & Co.) 1929. 21'4cm. pp. 61. Re. 1-8.
- SATYAGRAHA IN CHAMPARAN.** By BABU RAJENDRA PRASAD. (Ganesan.) 1928. 22cm. pp. 281. Rs. 2-8.
- THE CLOUD-MEN OF YAMATO, BEING AN OUTLINE OF MYSTICISM IN JAPANESE LITERATURE.** By E. V. GATENBY. (Murray.) 1929. 17cm. pp. 128. 3s. 6d.