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Topics of the Week.

Labour Government's Indian Policy.

APROPOS of the many rumours set afloat, and the vigorous contradictions uttered, regarding an early announcement of policy by the Labour Government and the convention of a round table conference, the truth seems to be what the exceptionally well informed London correspondent of the *Indian Daily Mail* has stated on the subject in his letter of 3rd October :

It is generally known that the various Indian leaders that have been latterly in this country—all too few of them—and other friends of India well acquainted with Indian opinion have been impressing upon the authorities here the urgent desirability of satisfying Indian sentiment and aspirations at least to the extent of an early declaration of intentions, in view of the events that have recently occurred both here and in India and of those that are likely to occur there at the end of the year. That these representations have been sympathetically received by the Ministers charged with the conduct of Indian affairs has been a matter of universal testimony. But to translate the sentiments that have been on more than one occasion expressed into terms of a definite undertaking to make a declaration of the extension of Dominion Status to India in the near future is going much further than the circumstances warrant. What are those circumstances? The Labour Government, though committed to Dominion Status for India in principle, is also committed to awaiting the report of the Simon Commission, and is also conditioned by its strength in the House and in the country. That being so, it is incredible that the statement that has been telegraphed to India by a Press Agency, which has no direct means of vouching the accuracy of its statement, should bear the stamp of

authority. The utmost that can be said, at the moment, is that the Viceroy has been at great pains to explain to those most concerned in this country—and this applies to the party leaders—what he conceives to be the effect of the boycott of the Commission and the state of tension in India, and it is believed that he will be authorised, upon his return to India, to make a pronouncement clearly defining the British Government's view of the meaning of the phrase "responsible government," concerning which serious misconception has been aroused by reason of the interpretation placed upon it by an eminent satyagrah.

Besides this, it is more than likely that it will be made known that an invitation will be extended by the Government, so soon as the Simon Commission has reported, to the Indian party leaders and other responsible persons to meet it in conference in London, without commitments, to consider the material of all kinds that the Government will by then have before it, whether of an official character or, otherwise, in order to assist it to come to a decision as to the manner in which Dominion Status can best be attained. Such a conference would not meet here until next year—probably in the spring. In those circumstances, it seems obvious that the Government cannot have made up its mind yet or have been able to reach agreement with the other parties as to the nature of its conclusions. Indeed, it is most anxious to avoid the impression that it will do so without learning, at first hand, from those leaders of Indian opinion that, for well-known reasons, have felt themselves deprived of the opportunity of presenting them, their views of what should be done in the best interests of the two countries

Temple Entry of the Depressed Classes.

POONA is greatly agitated just now by the campaign of satyagraha which the leaders of the so-called untouchables are carrying on with the help of some leading Congressmen for the purpose of asserting a right of entry into the famous Parvati temple. The campaign was taken in hand in response to the public appeal which Sheth Jammalal Bajaj as Chairman of the Anti-Untouchability Committee of the Congress issued to Congress workers in general. It was preceded by a request preferred to the Trustees of the shrine to throw the shrine open to the untouchables. This request was unceremoniously rejected by the Trustees who maintained not only that they considered the touch of the "untouchables" as a pollution, and that for that reason they would not allow the depressed classes to invade the sacred precincts of the temple, but further that they, being mere trustees, could not, by the terms of their trust, permit the depressed classes to enter the inside of the temple even if they would and that the temple was in no sense public property and was not subject to those conditions to which public institutions managed out of state funds are.

The latter contention of the Trustees is demonstrably untrue. The shrine was the property of a

former Peshwa and along with other property of the Peshwas lapsed to the Government who have transferred it to a Board of Trustees for management. Government retain full control over the property and can and must dismiss the existing Board if they insist upon managing the property in violation of the policy which it has enjoined upon all public institutions. That all public institutions on the support of which state revenues are expended in whole or in part must be accessible to every element of the population is a cardinal principle of the Bombay Government's policy, subject to which alone the Government can be regarded as having transferred the management of the temple. If the present trustees will not observe this principle, it is clear that they must be relieved of their duties. It is not therefore true to say that the trustees are constitutionally unable to give access to the temple to the depressed classes, but it is incumbent upon them to do so. They can either manage the property in conformity with the commitments of Government who has appointed them or relinquish their charge.

Nor is it a fact that the Trustees are by individual convictions too orthodox to permit the intrusion of the untouchables into the temple. Most of them have very little orthodoxy about them and some are openly alleged to partake of food prepared or served by untouchables. Such persons have no moral right to deny to any section of the Hindus access to a temple meant for the use of the Hindus in general. They are doing so merely because they fear that Hindu public opinion would expect it of them. Such being their feeling, it is but natural that Congress workers and leaders of the untouchables should have thought of satyagraha as a weapon not meant for forcing their entry into the temple, which they have no intention of doing, but for persuading the trustees and the public to accede to their just demand by self-suffering. Those who are perhaps opposed to all forms of satyagraha should bear in mind one thing about this particular campaign: by asserting their right to go into the temple no orthodox persons are subjected to the hardships like those to which they would be subjected if, e. g., they determined to take water from a public well, in which case possibly the orthodox would be deprived of reasonable facilities for obtaining a necessity of life. At the worst, in case the satyagrahis succeeded in their present campaign, the orthodox public would erase the Parvati temple from their list of sacred shrines. That would not be a great deprivation considering how many other temples there are from which the depressed classes are still rigorously excluded.

But of course the satyagrahis cannot assert their right until the Trustees are converted to their view. The least that we had expected of the Poona public, particularly in view of the fact that satyagraha methods have come so much into vogue, was that the satyagrahis would be allowed to make an attempt at conversion unhindered. But this expectation was dashed to the ground. For the very people who have "non-violence" and "satyagraha" constantly on their lips practised violence upon the satyagrahis, wounding all of them more or less and one to such an extent as to require his being immediately sent to the hospital. The satyagrahis, on their part, remained absolutely quiet and unruffled, extorting the admiration of all those who are at all capable of appreciating self-immolation in a righteous cause. Those who know Poona from inside need not be told that all those politicians who on the slightest pretext speak of launching on a movement of passive resistance against Government, in most cases little knowing what they mean, are all solidly ranged

against the present satyagrahis because their satyagraha is directed not against the satanic Government but against the perversion of religion which masquerades under the name of Sanatana Dharma. They not only do not support the satyagraha but are so intolerant of it that they do not mind even resorting to violence if by so doing they could defeat satyagraha. We for the moment hope for nothing better from them than that they too shall remain non-violent along with the satyagrahis, giving this method of moral warfare a fair chance. The satyagrahis will perhaps be reluctant to go to Government for relief, but the latter have a clear duty in the matter of requiring the Trustees to conform to their settled policy. Indeed satyagraha would then be unnecessary.

The Sukkur Barrage Saved from Condemnation.

FOR a long time people have been doubting whether the Lloyd Barrage and the Canals Project in Sind are going to be a paying proposition but these doubts are set at rest by the Report issued by Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung Bahadur. The experts have declared that if the scheme is completed soon it will pay its way and will be a great blessing to the province of Sind. But the Report of these experts bears out all the strong criticisms made all along by the Press and the public in connection with the scheme. The experts declare that the project is not going to be the masterpiece of productive enterprise that it has been represented by Government spokesmen. The total area brought under cultivation will be a million acres short of the estimated area. It appears from the Report that due care was not taken in placing orders for plants and in fixing the rates of wages and in examining the capacity of the dredgers and that the whole scheme was needlessly hurried. The financial aspects of the scheme were purposely omitted from the terms of reference and yet the expert engineers have made a casual survey of the finances and drawn some valuable conclusions. They recommend that the scheme should be regarded as an all-India enterprise and that a large part of the burden should be transferred from the Bombay budget to the Indian budget. It seems to us unjust that the whole of India should be made to suffer for the follies and extravagances of a Provincial Government but there does not seem to be an alternative since Bombay alone would break down under the burden. The experts think that apart from this, the scheme must be made to pay the usual interest on irrigation works, within a very short time after completion. It is clear from the Report that the scheme must be seen through as nothing can be gained either by prolonging its completion or by scrapping it, especially as nearly Rs. 10 crores have been already spent on it. The experts say philosophically that it is the duty of every citizen to accept conditions as they are and offer only constructive suggestions and resist the temptation of reviving old controversies. This is certainly the right attitude for the public to adopt at such an advanced stage. We hope the warning given by the experts not to exceed the estimates so as to keep the whole cost within the limit of Rs. 25.25 crores and even to omit some non-essential works would be heeded by the authorities concerned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi on Labour Problems.

AN interview given by Mr. N. M. Joshi to the Press on his arrival in India relates the doings of the Indian Workers' delegation to the Geneva Labour Conference; from this it will be seen that it has given a very good account of itself. Mr. Joshi impressed on the Conference that the only way to prevent the Asiatic workers from adopting the ideals

and methods of Russian Communism was for the Geneva organisation to bring about an adequate improvement in the labour conditions in Asiatic countries. At his instance a Resolution was adopted asking for a report on the labour organisations in the Colonies and in countries where the non-white labour was in a majority and he drew the attention of the Conference to the need of revising the Convention regarding hours of work in favour of workers in backward countries. Mr. Joshi's suggestion of holding occasionally a labour conference of Asiatic countries has been approved of by the Director of the International Labour Office and it is very likely to materialise soon. It was very courageous of him to have frankly told Mr. Wedgwood Benn that the success of communism in India was due to the habit of the employers as well as the Government of neglecting the grievances of labour till the weapon of strike was resorted to. Referring to the Labour Commission Mr. Joshi said that he was surprised to see a level-headed leader like Mr. Ginwala making wrong statements about the Rt. Hon. Mr. Whitley and the attitude of the British Trade Unions towards the Whitley Councils. In his opinion it was the duty of leaders of the Labour movement in India to place all their grievances before the Commission and he uttered a serious warning about boycotting the Commission. He removed the misapprehension that the Whitley report was antagonistic to Trade Unions by citing the fact that it was signed by two such veteran Union leaders as Mr. Clynes and Mr. Smilie. We hope Mr. Joshi's timely warning against the boycott of the Labour Commission will have the intended result of making labour leaders see the error of their ways. The Whitley Commission is going to discuss exhaustively all the labour conditions so far as they affect the health and the standard of living of the workers as well as the relations between the employers and the employed generally and labour cannot stand to lose anything by such a comprehensive enquiry.

Purchase of land by a Minister.

UNDER the exterior of a volley of questions and answers in the Bombay Council about the purchase of certain lands in the Sukkur Barrage zone the real issue is the propriety of a Minister making such deals when he is presumed to have inside knowledge of the future possibilities, in virtue of his official position. The questions were simply symptomatic of the desire of the members of the Council that all the cards should be placed on the table and that there should be nothing to keep back. Viewed in this light the temper and even the spleen displayed over this affair in the Council by Government benches seems to us to be out of place. The answers of the Hon. Mr. Hotson succeed only in proving that the deal is technically correct from the legal point of view since he says that the Legal Remembrancer had given in writing a favourable opinion about the transaction. It is true also that technically the rules governing the conduct of Government servants do not apply to the Ministers on account of their peculiar position. All this however is beside the point when the transaction is questioned from the point of view of moral propriety. The attitude of the Press has been made clear and there is hardly a journal of note which has not expressed in favour of establishing a convention by which Ministers should be prevented from entering into any commercial deals which are even remotely connected with the portfolios of any one of them so that there might not be even a breath of suspicion about their conduct. The integrity of public administration is a plant of very slow growth and nothing ought to be done by any one connected with it to jeopardize it. The blank refusal to put the Council in possession of any relevant papers in connection with the deal is hardly calculated to inspire public confidence.

Articles.

THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

THE address of Sir Ernest Jackson as President of the annual meeting of the Indian Railway Conference Association breathes a very hopeful spirit with regard to the future of Indian Railways; and this spirit would have been commendable but for the fact that in many important matters the picture is not so rosy as we should all like to draw. The text adopted for his address by Sir E. Jackson was that the Indian Railways have replaced the rigid conservatism of the past by more progressive methods; and it is certainly a very appropriate one as there is no doubt that new ideas and broader outlook have made themselves felt in the working of our railways. In view of the fact that competition from roads is on the increase he emphasized the need for railway administrations to give the public the best service that is possible; this is all sound from the economic point of view but we should rather think that the railways should not require the stimulus of competition for improving their service. We are glad to note there is a decrease in claims paid by class I railways from Rs. 120 lakhs in 1922 to Rs. 10 lakhs in 1927 on account of the greater care bestowed on the transit of goods; it is good that railways have recognized that chaotic conditions in the handling of goods do not redound to the credit of their administrations. Sir E. Jackson thoroughly endorses the adoption of modern methods of clearing earnings for through traffic by the institution of a Clearing House.

We are glad to note that Sir E. Jackson places the changes connected with staff and labour which are taking place in the forefront of the administrative problems which railways have to tackle. We do not however share the optimism which he feels about the position and attitude of the railway employees. Successive conferences of railway workers have demonstrated the keen dissatisfaction which is felt by them with regard to many points in connection with their terms of service and their standard of living. It is hardly true therefore to say that the vast majority of them are contented and happy. The demand made by him that railway Unions should put forward fair and reasonable representations and should give proof of responsible management is certainly one with which it is easy to agree but to ensure this, the management must be genuinely sympathetic to the Unions instead of antagonistic to them. Sir Ernest has given a long list of benefits which accrue to the railway staff; but even with regard to these it has to be remembered that the lion's share goes to the European and Anglo-Indian staff and the Indian staff is very scantily provided with the major portion of them. The discrepancies between the financial provision for schools for the European section and those intended for the Indian section have been already pointed out by Pandit Kunzru and other members of the Assembly during the debate on the Railway Budget. The inference

he draws from the fact that there is a horde of applicants when a vacancy has to be filled in every branch of railway working is a *non-sequitur*; it is the large extent of unemployment in the country that is responsible for this result and no facile deduction with regard to the attractiveness of the railway service can be based upon it. To say that all the woes of the employees are due to their being bound hand and foot by the moneylenders is to sidetrack the issue. When we say this however we have no intention of withholding a tribute of praise from the railway administrations for having started Co-operative Credit Societies for railway employees and having assisted the workers to wipe off their indebtedness through this agency.

Sir E. Jackson bewails the curtailment of the Railway capital programme during this year as well as during the next year and he especially complains about the failure of railways to complete innumerable minor works which taken collectively bring about a considerable aggregate improvement. This however is only one side of the picture; the other is that ambitious capital programmes make the position of the Government more and more insecure on account of substantial additions to the item of interest and whatever might be the productivity of the railways there is a limit to the interest which a country can easily pay out of its current revenues. The standard of efficiency aimed at has to be necessarily adjusted to the growth of general prosperity and cannot be regarded as a sacrosanct principle which must be made applicable in all conceivable circumstances.

The figure of passengers travelling without tickets on Class I Railways is given by Sir E. Jack-

son as reaching in 1928 two and a half millions and the worst of it is that to realize the fares from these passengers to the tune of Rs. 26 lakhs, the cost entailed amounted to Rs. 27 lakhs. He recommends therefore a redrafting of the Railway Act so as to make the offence of travelling without ticket cognizable. We doubt however whether this is not too drastic a solution of the problem and before seriously undertaking an amendment of the Act we should recommend the appointment of a Committee of the Assembly to look into the question and consider it from the legal and other points of view. We are glad to note that Sir E. Jackson has acknowledged the helpful work done by the members of Local Advisory Committees. These Committees have done invaluable service in bridging the gulf between railway managements and the travelling public and in creating a friendly atmosphere. By means of these Committees the grievances of the latter have been brought early to the notice of the authorities and in various cases have been quickly redressed. With respect to third class passengers and their safety and comfort Sir E. Jackson exaggerates what has already been done in this direction. In spite of the money spent on improved services, electrification and safety devices and extensions the lot of the third class passenger is not very much better than what it was long ago. There is much leeway to be made up and fortunately Sir E. Jackson is conscious of the fact, since he admits at the end that we cannot rest on our oars. While the Indian critic of the Railways does not want to deny the progress which has been made, he objects to the progress being overrated and failures being condoned with a sense of smug self-satisfaction.

GROWTH OF EDUCATION in British India and the Philippine Islands.

A FORMER Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, W. Cameron Forbes, has claimed in his recent work on "The Philippine Islands"* that the United States has set an example to all other Colonial Governments in looking after the education of the inhabitants of their colonial possessions, and that the educational achievements of the Americans in the Philippines after barely 30 years of control make a much better showing than those, say, of the British in India after 150 years and of the Dutch in the Netherlands East Indies after 250. The publication of the Government of India's Ninth Quinquennial Report on Education makes it opportune at the present time to make a comparison of the progress made in India and the Philippine Islands in the matter of the expansion of education. We give below a few facts which will show conclusively that the claim put forward on behalf of the U.S. is fully justified. The decided superiority which that country has to show in this respect is to be attributed for the most part to the resolve of the U.S. to turn over the government

of the Islands to the Filipinos as soon as possible and, as observed by Mr. Forbes, "the growing tendency of placing governmental affairs in the hands of the people themselves has carried with it a realizing sense of the political necessity of education," for "disaster inevitably follows placing powers in the hands of an illiterate, uneducated or oppressed peasantry." It was never the intention of the United States to stay for long in the Philippines, but to allow Filipinos to manage their own affairs; and therefore from the outset it deliberately promoted mass education as an essential pre-requisite to and a necessary preparation for the establishment of self-government in the Philippines. Thus, even while fighting was going on and before it was known that the Islands would pass to the sovereignty of the U.S., Americans made a beginning in the building up of a system of public education. "The first public school opened by the American authorities was one on the island of Corregidor, at the mouth of Manila Bay, within less than a month after the destruction of the Spanish fleet by Admiral Dewey. Less than three weeks after the occupation of the city of Mani-

* Pub. by Houghton Mifflin Co. 2 vols. 1929. 24cm. 620 + 636p. \$12.50.

In the following August (1898), seven schools were reopened." During the period of military occupation "great activity was observable in all garrisoned towns in the establishment of schools of primary instruction;" and it was reported that by 1900 more than 100,000 children were in attendance at school. The public schools were then transferred to civil administration and at the end of the first year of such transfer, i. e. in July 1902, there were enrolled more than 200,000 children in the primary schools. Since then, steady progress is being maintained so that within ten years the enrolment had increased to such an extent as to bring up the percentage of scholars to total population to what it is at the present time in India, viz. 4.51. Now, of course, the Philippine Islands have left British India very much behind. The British Government was of course never in a hurry to bring about a widespread diffusion of education in India, for it never pretended to be actuated by the altruistic motives of which we find such rich expression in the utterances of the U.S. statesman. Self-government as an ultimate goal has only latterly dawned on the consciousness of Great Britain, and the educational record of the two countries is quite in keeping with their political objectives in respect of their dependencies.

In 1927 there were enrolled in all kinds of educational institutions in our country 11,157,496 pupils which gives, as said above, a percentage of 4.51 to the total population. The total enrolment for the Philippine Islands was in the same year 1,099,306, which is 9.36 per cent. of the total population, i.e. more than twice that in India. These percentages however do not give a clear idea to a non-expert mind of the extent of the whole field covered so far and yet to be covered in future. This is best done by comparing the number of children in school to children of school-going age. In India the percentage of scholars to school population is 49.4 for boys and 10 for girls or 32.22 for children in general. This percentage is not after all very much less than 35.57 which is given in the Philippine School Report as the percentage of scholars to school population. But, in the Philippines school age is held to consist of 11 years from the time when a child attains 6 years of age to the time when he attains 17 years. Every child must be at school within these age limits and must com-

plete the secondary stage, which corresponds to the high school stage in this country. Such is the American idea. The school population is therefore estimated in the Philippines at 26.3 per cent. of the total population, while in India it is estimated at 14 per cent., our idea being that primary education alone is capable of universal extension. At the Indian standard, therefore, the percentage of total enrolment to school population in the Philippines would be 67.85. That is, for every 100 children to whom we provide educational privileges, Americans provide them to 210 children in the Philippines. Thus Filipinos have covered within 30 years more than twice the distance we have covered within a period of time five times as long. This will enable the reader to compare the rate of progress in the two countries. Within the last 25 years the enrolment in India increased from 4,521,900 to 11,157,496 or 246.7 per cent.; in the same period the enrolment in the Philippines increased from 227,600 to 1,111,509 or 722.38 per cent. That is to say, the rate of progress in the Philippines is just a little less than thrice that in India.

The rate of progress depends as much upon the duration of school life as upon the number of children who receive education in school. In this respect too the Philippines occupy a position of advantage compared to India; for the schools in that country hold children longer than those in this. The amount of wastage that occurs in the primary school grades alone in India is shown in Mr. Littlehaile's Quinquennial Report as follows:—

	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	P. c. of 1922-23
Class I	3,453,046	—	—	—	—	100
II	—	1,218,758	—	—	—	35.3
III	—	—	897,512	—	—	26
IV	—	—	—	655,101	—	18.5
V	—	—	—	—	393,465	11

These figures relate merely to boys' primary schools; similar figures for boys' secondary schools or girls' primary and secondary schools are not given in the report. But we can follow the whole academic career of children from the Philippine Reports, which are in every respect fuller and more interesting.

	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	Percentage of 1917-18
Class I	287,721	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
Class II	—	147,492	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51
Class III	—	—	111,415	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Class IV	—	—	—	91,350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31.7
Class V	—	—	—	—	64,654	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.46
Class VI	—	—	—	—	—	45,468	—	—	—	—	—	16
Class VII	—	—	—	—	—	—	37,794	—	—	—	—	13
Class VIII	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22,697	—	—	—	7.8
Class IX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Class X	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,277	—	3.5
Class XI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,523	3

If we compare the two tables we shall find that whereas of the 1000 children who start on their primary course in this country only 110 go to the end of it; in the Philippines as many as 317 do so. If we could compare the number of boys who drop out in the middle and high school stages and that of girls in all the stages in India, we should find that the losses on these heads are proportionately heavier; but even estimating the losses at the rate at which they occur in boys' primary schools, we find that the losses in India are more than thrice those in the Philippines. Again, the attendance of Indian pupils is more irregular than that of Filipino pupils. The percentage of attendance in Indian schools is approximately 77·6, while that in the Philippine schools 96·02, i. e. 24 per cent. better than in our country. It should also be borne in mind that in the Philippines the high percentage of attendance is attained without the application of compulsion.

The Philippine Islands are thus considerably in advance of India in the matter of general education. In those branches of education in which India is particularly backward, e. g., female education, the Islands are of course still further ahead. The percentage of male scholars to male population in our country is 7·33, while that of female scholars to female population only 1·53, that is to say, the extent of the diffusion of education among girls is only about one-fifth that among boys. The disparity between the sexes, which is already great generally, becomes still greater in the middle and high school education

		India	Philippines	Percentage of (b) to (a)
		(a)	(b)	(c)
Primary Schools	Boys ...	1 6,707,429	463,111	
	Girls ...	2 1,545,963	353,057	
	Percentage of 2 to 1 ...	3 23	76	330
Middle Schools	Boys ...	4 971,217	124,168	
	Girls ...	5 123,892	74,597	
	Percentage of 5 to 4 ...	6 12·7	60	472
High Schools	Boys ...	7 744,444	42,255	
	Girls ...	8 39,858	26,400	
	Percentage of 8 to 7 ...	9 5·3	62	1170

This table gives us the following results: that female education in the primary stage is diffused in the Philippines nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ times that in India; in the middle stage $4\frac{3}{4}$ times; and in the higher stage $11\frac{1}{4}$ times! The disparity between the education of the two sexes is slowly decreasing in the Philippines, while it is increasing in India. As every year passes girls tend to overtake boys in education in the former country; but in India they lag still further behind.

We could go on like this comparing various phases of the system of public education in the two countries, but we would close here. Before doing so, however, we must recapitulate the conclusions drawn above:—

- (i) *The P.I. are moving thrice as fast as India towards their higher goal of secondary education for all;*

- (ii) *On account of this higher rate of progress the P.I. have already provided educational facilities to twice as many children as India;*
- (iii) *The P.I. schools keep such children as attend them thrice as long as Indian;*
- (iv) *In the P.I. schools attendance of children is one quarter better than in India;*
- (v) *In the P.I. girls' education is five times as wide-spread as in India.*

Of course the Philippines' educational policy has involved a large outlay of expenditure. This of itself is a very large subject, on which we cannot enter now. It is enough to quote the figures which Mr. Forbes has given of the per capita educational expenditures in 1924 in the three countries:

<i>Dutch East Indies,</i>	\$0.24;
<i>British India,</i>	... \$0.27;
<i>Philippine Islands,</i>	\$1.20;

which shows that educational expenditure in the Philippine Islands is nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ times that in India.

INDIAN HOUSING IN DURBAN.

IT will be recalled that in pursuance of the Cape Town Agreement, the Union Government instituted an enquiry into the housing conditions of Indians in and around Durban in November last. In their evidence the Indians contended that if Indian housing conditions were bad the responsibility for them lay largely with the Durban Corporation, which housed its own Indian employees in a shocking manner, and refused to provide sites for Indian housing in the Borough of Durban and insisted on Indians going out of the Borough and developing an Indian village. Indians had objected to segregation of this kind not only on grounds of sentiment but also of municipal efficiency. The sanitary and other municipal services of the Indian village, whose inhabitants had not the municipal vote, were bound to be neglected and ignored. It would be a change from the frying pan to the fire. The Commission of Enquiry upheld the Indian contention in every respect, pointed out certain areas within the Borough suitable for Indian housing and recommended that a sum of £50,000 should be set apart for Indian housing, partly within the Borough. Though the amount sanctioned was comparatively small to solve the problem, yet it was a source of great gratification to the Indians that their contention was vindicated, and a quietus given to the villification of Indians for their unsatisfactory housing condition. The Durban corporation, under Mayor Eaton, a pronounced anti-Indian and a fanatic advocate of segregation, declined to accept the recommendations of the Commission. No use has been made of the money earmarked for Indian housing. Dr. D. F. Malan, the minister of the Interior, is reported to have sharply criticised the Durban corporation for this remissness. "I cannot help saying that the chief reason for that is the general attitude of the people of Durban, who certainly cannot be described as sympathetic." This remark is significant. It is a great change from the old days to find the Minister of the interior and Dr. Malan at that, publicly cen-

ensuring the Durban corporation for failing to do its duty by its Indian population. Our Durban contemporary attempts to shield the corporation from this censure. "Dr. Malan should know that the difficulty in Durban is that there is practically no land for Indian housing in the Borough, and the Indians will not take advantage of a housing scheme outside the Borough." It is time our contemporary knew that the Commission of enquiry, after full investigation in which the Durban corporation participated declared unequivocally that there was land in the Borough suitable for Indian housing and condemned by implication, the segregation scheme of the corporation. It is unfair to repeat these exploded fallacies *ad nauseum*. Nor does it add to the credit of the corporation that it should persist in ignoring the recommendations of the Commission, and preferring to tolerate the unsatisfactory conditions of Indian housing to abandoning its discredited scheme of segregation. It is fervently to be hoped that under the regime of the new Mayor, the Rev. A. Lamont, whose sympathies for the underdog, be he a labourer or the disfranchised Indian or native, is well-known, the accursed scheme of segregation will be finally abandoned, and a great forward step will be taken towards rendering social justice to all communities, and that the recommendations of the Housing Committee will be taken in hand at once. The health and happiness of even its Indian population should weigh more with the City fathers than the satisfaction of perpetuating a prejudice against them.

The failure of the Durban Corporation to utilise Government laws for Indian housing has led Dr. Malan to observe that "the position is such that I am considering whether loans which are not made use of within a considerable period should be withdrawn." Obviously this is an unsatisfactory method of dealing with the situation. It may be justified from a purely financial point of view, but it is no solution of the problem of Indian housing which is admittedly very bad. Between the vindictive recalcitrancy of the Durban Corporation and the threat of the Union Government to withdraw unspent loans, the poor Indian has to suffer and wallow indefinitely in the present deplorable conditions, which are a danger not only to himself but to the non-Indian as well. It is unwise of the Union Government to withdraw the grants. The wiser method is to devise means to see that the money is properly and promptly spent.

Our European Letter.

INDIA AT GENEVA.

AS the weeks pass the impression that the Tenth Assembly is one of the most important gatherings of the League yet held gains ground, and all the prominent European newspapers with one accord devote their columns to a discussion of the general implications of the policy now engendered at Geneva. Mr. Philip Kerr, writing in the *Observer*, characterises the change that has come over the attitude of the Euro-

pean Powers towards the League as revolutionary, and proceeds to explain how it is one of those far-reaching evolutionary transitions, usually unperceived, to which one wakes up rather suddenly when the new habit of mind has been firmly established. This change, by common admission, is entirely due to the influence of the British Government. Writing in the *Journal de Genève* some days ago Senor de Madariaga remarked:—

"The obstructionist policy of England explains the period of stagnation in the history of the League. The movement of which we rejoice to-day is explained by the vital urge which the MacDonald Ministry has brought into it. This spectacle ought to make the British people realise the enormous responsibility which rests on them in international matters. If they stop, the League stops; if they move on, the League moves forward."

Mr. Wickham Steed, writing in the *Européen*, observes:—

"Two days ago a very eminent British official, an intimate, faithful, and conscientious colleague of Sir Austen Chamberlain put me this question, 'Why do you think the country revolted so emphatically against the Conservative government?' and added without waiting for my reply, 'In my opinion, because the Conservatives let themselves be beaten by the whole body of movements and tendencies in the international world for which the word Geneva stands.' I am in agreement. For two years at least I have felt the impatience of the country under the heavy weight of the Baldwin administration and its longing for a more dynamic government. The victory of Labour in the month of May was much less the triumph of a party or of an economic or political doctrine than the expression of a general will to rid the country of an obstacle to its progress. As the British people see it, this progress consists in the establishment of social and international peace, in disarmament and in the conception of a civilisation from which war would have been abolished."

Mr. Steed is of course discriminating enough to add that this new British tendency is vague. Any one familiar with England and with the remarkable way in which the country in general would seem to have swerved to the support of the present Government would hardly doubt Mr. Steed's statement although if the proverbial British virtues of dash and daring and care-free heroism are a little out of fashion the explanation should not be found in any arbitrary change of outlook. That change is the result of an intuitive, almost instinctive, appreciation of world changes which may be summed up by the two factors of American expansion and Asiatic nationalism. The first necessitates co-operation with the continent of Europe for purposes of effective commercial and economic organisation and the second, a very special sort, of liberalism and democratic outlook such as must be difficult for an aristocratic community to acquire. And yet, oddly enough, it is as regards the second, Asian nationalism, that the British are showing themselves more sensitive and possessed of real insight. Close on the announcement of the Anglo-Egyptian treaty comes the proposal to terminate the Mesopotamian Mandate by Iraq's admission into the League, and, thanks to the troubles in Palestine, a movement has been set on foot in England, to rid Britons of the responsibility of establishing a national home for the Jews. All these are symptomatic of

the very genuine anxiety on the part of the British people to tackle Imperial problems and to set the Empire right.

As regards co-operation with European States so as to consolidate production and facilitate commerce the insularity of Britain has been most apparent even in this session. This tendency for European unity, like every attempt at federation, is largely the consequence of an intruding circumstance, viz. American power. Experience has made it clear that no such union is possible of achievement on a wholly commercial or economic basis. Repeated failures, the most magnificent of which has been the 1927 World Economic Conference, have laid bare political implications, and the whole obstinate question of disarmament resolves itself into little more than the need for a European political understanding. It is noteworthy that both the definite proposals made by the British Delegation regarding this in this Assembly fell flat. Mr. Graham's plea for a truce in tariff wars and Lord Cecil's measure dealing with land armaments will go little beyond the limits of the mechanical routine of the League. Contrariwise, the one bold move which the French Premier made, the deliberate isolation of European representatives, in the very thick of the Assembly, has been received in England with little warmth and a great deal of scepticism. Even Mr. Brailsford vouchsafes to it in the *New Leader* no more attention than the warning that the British would be taking upon themselves too grave a responsibility if they deliberately set themselves against the Briand idea of the United States of Europe, dubious as it is in itself.

So far Great Britain has been utilising the possibilities of Geneva for safeguarding her foreign policy, as for instance with Locarno, and it is quite possible that in future Geneva will similarly be used for facilitating the solution of Imperial problems. Recent practice would indeed seem to point in that direction definitely. And in that case, the question naturally arises whether we should not also fortify our position here. It is a fortunate coincidence that we had an Indian to sign the Treaty of Versailles and on the important occasion of our subscribing to the Optional Clause of the Hague Court one of our own nationals did it. The interpretation that the Irish Free State puts on this act is, as is well known, fraught with great significance for Imperial relations. Neither Ireland nor Australia would seem to enjoy a position here analogous to Canada's, but the day is certainly not far off when the Imperial Conferences meeting in London will have to reckon with Geneva. If only the Continentals were endowed in a richer measure with that sense of constitutional subtleties which Great Britain possesses that day would be already at hand. We would do well to envisage that possibility although meanwhile India's disproportionate contributions must be noted. The stress lies not on the contributions but on the altogether inadequate position she occupies in the higher councils of the League, whether in its major political organs or in the Secretariat. It is difficult for an Indian to be optimistic about Geneva, but not even the most opti-

mistic could wish his country to continue to bear her present financial burden unless there is an early prospect of her position with regard to the League proper being at least what it is with regard to the International Labour Office. When this is achieved—it rests with the Government of India to obtain it by sending competent Indians every year to Geneva and by allowing them the necessary latitude—our Government at home as well as the League authorities would probably be agreeably surprised to find a different attitude from what is now prevailing among the large bulk of our countrymen about Geneva.

Geneva, September 24.

Reviews.

A NEW CHAPTER IN NATIONAL EDUCATION.

THE CASE FOR NURSERY SCHOOLS. By THE EDUCATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE. (George Philip, London.) 1929. 20cm. xvi+156p.

JUST a hundred years ago Froebel, the celebrated educationist, was the first to point out the need for organising a special class of institutions for children under five or six years of age. To him also belongs the credit of putting the idea first into practice. His famous Kindergarten (1837-1844) was conducted on the most original lines, and produced admirable results. He was convinced that the spirit of his pioneering work would, in course of time, spread far and wide. But he had his doubts about the march of events in the oft-neglected educational world: for he said "centuries may yet pass before my view of the human nature is manifested in the child, and the educational treatment it requires are universally recognised." Truly enough the pre-Elementary Schools came to be recognised officially in England only in 1918.

During the fifty years following the death of Froebel, his ideas were making headway but slowly, though it might now be safely said that all the best tendencies of recent thought and action about the education of very young children centre round what Froebel said and did.

In tracing the origin and progress of the pre-Elementary School movement in England, the report points out that in the early years of this century a fresh impetus for the movement came from an altogether unexpected quarter. By 1902 in English urban areas the infantile death rate stood at the rather high figure of 180 per 1000 males, so that the educational system was 'hobbled at the very beginning of the race'. Coupled with this there was the other fact more disturbing "to the mind of the country," viz. the 'alarming' number of recruits rejected by the Army at the time of the Boer War, as being physically unfit. When the Director-General of the Army Medical Service said that "the rejection of one out of every three men examined by the medical officer points clearly to the poorness of the human material for Army purposes," his words were in the nature of an

electric shock to the Government and the country. What the educationists of over a generation had been pressing for in vain by way of reform, the War Lord succeeded in making them accomplish by a few strokes of the pen. The officials and the people suddenly bestirred themselves to action. There sprang up in quick succession several Departmental, Inter-Departmental and Special Committees leading to the organisation of the School Medical Service, the founding of Creches, and the formulation of New Education Acts.

Meanwhile on the practical side, the experiments associated with the names of the Misses Macmillan from 1908 onwards were a splendid success. So much so in England the names Nursery Schools and Misses Macmillan go together. Their life work has had not only an important influence on the movement as a whole, but in determining the policy of the Board of Education itself.

It may not be out of place, even in a review, to point out what this new class of schools stands for. The word 'school' has unfortunately come to be too closely associated in the minds of many with a definite course of study and learning. But the new Nursery Schools stand for a new ideal in the education of the pre-school child by combining nurture with education. They stand for things,

"which are due to the childhood of the race: space, sunshine, and fresh air; cleanliness; regular and proper feeding; sleep; exercise and play; intelligent and pleasur-

able occupation. It is a place where brightness and cheerfulness are freely dispensed; where cleanliness and tidiness are the rule; where good habits, moral and social, develop naturally; where regularity in sleep and play and medical care are assured; where interest is stimulated, enjoyment experienced, inquiry encouraged, language developed. It is a refuge where a child may find rest, care, and training . . ." (p. 59).

In a word, a Nursery School is at once a nursery and a school, and both of the best possible kind.

The report before us deals with almost all the phases of activity of such schools besides throwing light on the fundamental importance of such institutions, the nature of their organisations, the need for multiplying them, the dimensions of that problem, and the training of teachers for the new kind of work. Cholmely and his distinguished colleagues, have given us not a dry-as-dust report of the more formal kind, depending for its value on the list of recommendations made, but have furnished us with an interesting and authoritative account that would appeal alike to the average man and the specialist. 'The Case for Nursery Schools' is sure to meet with as warm a welcome as, if not a warmer welcome than, 'The Next Step in National Education' issued by the same committee year before last.

The volume is well produced and well illustrated. There is a useful bibliography at the end. Had the book been provided with an index it would have facilitated quick reference.

R. K. SANGAMESWARAN.

GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY.

FROM BISMARCK TO THE WORLD WAR. By ERICH BRANDENBURG. Translated by ANNIE ELIZABETH ADAMS. (Oxford University Press.) 1927. 23cm. 542p. 21/-.

THIS book, which is written by the Professor of Modern History in the University of Leipzig, was first published in 1924, when the occupation of the Ruhr still continued, and the attempt to foster Rhineland separatism had but recently failed. The fact makes it all the more remarkable, for it represents a most courageous attempt to forget the war mentality, and "to see things as they really were." The book, he says, has been written "often in anguish of heart," in the belief "that it is as incumbent on us as on our enemies to avoid prejudices formed under the obsession of war." The writer's anguish of heart has not been in vain, for his work is as dispassionate as his intentions are sincere. He represents the German counterpart of scholars like Dr. G. P. Gooch who have tried to rise, even in the embittered atmosphere of war controversies, to the height of truly scientific history.

The book is important for more than its sincerity. It is based on the great official publication of the German archives, since 1871, and also on an independent investigation of the documents from 1899 to 1914, which at that time had not been published. It is, therefore, of great importance as giving a learned and earnest German's interpretation of the diplomacy of his own country. Such works are true contributions to international understanding. The

book, which is well translated, is throughout written in a dispassionate and lofty tone and merits the most careful study.

The dominant motive which strikes the reader is the atmosphere of mutual fear in which all the European powers moved after 1871. Fear of each other's power, suspicion of each other's motives led them one by one to take the precautions which precipitated the very disaster they sought to avert. They remind one of nothing so much as the old cartoon of two suspicious fellow railway travellers, who pile up a barrier of luggage, bag on bag, between them, until in a paroxysm of suspicious fear they finally fall to blows. Unless Herr Brandenburg has wholly misread the archives, Germany desired war no more than anyone else, but her methods of avoiding isolation caused the very encirclement she dreaded. She feared as other powers, but her own formidable power caused still greater fears amongst her neighbours. The period is the classic demonstration of the fallacy "*Si vis pacem, bellum prepare.*" (If you wish for peace, be prepared for war.) The great fear of Germany was a double attack from East and West. Bismarck sought only to maintain Germany's European position and he met this situation by the Triple Alliance, the Re-insurance Treaty with Russia, and friendly relations with England, France, rival to England in Egypt, and distrusted by monarchical Russia, was thus completely isolated. His fall in 1890, leading to the ascendancy of the obscure and sinister von Holstein, a

wirepuller of the type of Col. House without his benevolence or foresight, led to an immediate change. But the change, according to Herr Brandenburg, was one of method, and not of aim. The young Kaiser and his official advisers thought of nothing but avoiding a world war, though they coupled this with a desire to "take their place in the sun," to take a share in world and colonial affairs.

It was Germany, under Holstein's influence, not Russia, who refused to renew the re-insurance treaty after the first shock of Bismarck's fall, and so drove the unwilling Czar into an alliance with republican France. Alarmed by this, Germany thought of an English alliance, towards which Chamberlain was also pushing the reluctant Salisbury. This project was wrecked partly by friction in Africa and his constant attempts to drive hard bargains which irritated the English ministers, partly by the Boer war, and partly by indiscretions like the Kruger telegram (this was not the Kaiser's inspiration but his adviser's way of meeting his order "that something must be done"). The final failure after the Boer war was caused by the German demand that England must both join the Triple Alliance and obtain parliamentary consent for the Treaty. It is interesting to note that Lord Grey derived his anti-German feelings from his period at the Foreign Office from 1892 to 1895. The German attempt to play the arbiter had left the arbitration to England, and England, failing with Germany, concluded the Entente with France.

Germany, who had attempted to recover Russia by encouraging her Far Eastern schemes, now by means of the "Willy-Nicky" telegrams and the Byorko Treaty tried to detach Russia from France and to form a European League against England, "the yellow peril" and ultimately America. This was chimerical. The Russian defeat by Japan destroyed German influence, and Russia herself turned to England by means of the Persian agreement of 1907.

The stage was now set; Europe was entangled in a system of rival alliances from which she vainly tried to free herself before the spider of war descended upon her. From this point we note the increasing clumsiness of German diplomacy, the increasing domination of the Triple Alliance by Austria, the practical disappearance of Italy from the alliance, and, from the time of the fall of von Buelow in 1909, the increased influence of the Kaiser (previously often not given vital information and sometimes deceived by his advisers) which in practice meant the increased domination of the military party. Still there is no evidence that Germany desired war, but a master hand was removed and the carriage of state rumbled with increasing helplessness towards the abyss. The two Morocco crises illustrate this tendency. In the Tangier crisis Germany neglected the chance of obtaining concessions when Rouvier offered them, unnecessarily humiliated France by the dismissal of Delcassé, and finally was compelled to see France assume a practical Protectorate. In 1911 she spoiled her case for compensation by

demanding the whole of the French Cameroons with the result that she was checkmated by English support of France.

With the Balkan war the lead definitely passed to Austria, a fact which Berlin fully recognised but lacked the resolution to rectify. "Does it really pay," wrote von Tschirschky to von Jagow on 22nd May, 1914, "to attach ourselves so firmly to this ramshackle state, and continue the toilsome task of carrying it along with us?" The extent to which Austria dragged her ally is shown by the fact that the ultimatum to Serbia was only shown to the Germans 24 hours before it was due for delivery in Belgrade. Its terms caused a genuine shock but it was too late to stop it. The Serbian reply caused a reaction of opinion against Austria, and Germany did her best to mediate between Austria and Russia. Herr Bradenburg agrees with Dr. Seton-Watson in thinking that the decisive step was the general mobilisation of Russia, instead of a partial mobilisation against Austria, when Germany was urging Austria to moderation. This took place on July 28-29 after the Austrian declaration on Serbia and it was continued on July 30 in spite of a personal appeal by the Kaiser and after characteristic vacillation by the Czar. At this point Germany passed under the control of the military, and immediately put herself in the wrong by declaring war on France because her military plan reckoned for a war on both fronts and would have been upset by a French delay. For the same mechanical reason Belgium was invaded and the entry of England hastened and simplified if not actually precipitated. Herr Bradenburg, it seems to us, is too hard on the French at this stage. They certainly believed a war inevitable, but that was because they feared and suspected German aggression as much as Germany feared them. They were no more deliberately planning a war of revenge than Germany was a war of aggression. So the war began as a result of efforts to prevent it. The whole book shows in a most sombre way the logic of the policy of armaments and national self-interest and contains solemn warning to the present of the ease with which plans to ensure peace inspired only by fear may turn into schemes for waging war. There is a real danger, as has been said, that the next war may be fought on the issue of the best way of preventing it.

Herr Brandenburg considers the deeper causes of the war to be mutual fear, the intense competition of national interests, and the rivalry stimulated by the scramble for Africa and the absence of further outlets for imperialism at its close. In conclusion we may point out one or two things which show how far the world has travelled since then. The annexation of Tripoli by Italy in 1912, recalling Frederick the Great's seizure of Silesia in 1740, could hardly be repeated today. The Kaiser agreed to the establishment of the Hague Court because he thought it could never be more than a farce. All the powers planned and acted as if there was no such thing as European or world interests. The national state was absolute. On the other hand Parliaments and public opinion had to be considered in spite of the outward pomp

of monarchy. Individuals could guide but no longer create world forces from the Kaiser downward. Little as it was realised at the time, the monarchies of Europe were but the gorgeous shells of a feudal past, to be cast at the first convenient opportunity by the steadily growing force of public opinion.

T. G. P. SPEAR.

SOCIAL REFORM BY LEGISLATION.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SOCIAL REFORM. By

PAUL APPASAMY. (The Christian Literature Society for India, Madras.) 1929. 22cm. xxvi + 256p. Rs. 3/-.

THE author of this little book derives title to treat of "Social Reform in its Legal Aspects", from the fact that he is a Barrister-at-law and a member of the subordinate judiciary. Seeing that the Central Government in this country is gradually awakening to a sense of its responsibility to promote healthy social legislation, as is evidenced by the whole-hearted support it has given to the *Child Marriage Prevention Bill*, now on the legislative anvil, the book has made its appearance at a very opportune time and is sure to furnish material for thought, even though one does not see one's way to accept all the views propounded by the author.

The author divides the subject into three main parts, each part being devoted to one of the major problems of social reform, viz., (1) status of women, (2) caste, (3) joint family, the titles of the second and third parts suggesting that the work is mainly concerned with Hindu social reform. Each of the three main heads is dealt with in a number of chapters dealing with the various aspects of the problem, and after briefly touching on the existing state of the law the author proceeds to make his suggestions for reforms which in his opinion are immediately necessary for social progress.

The facts, that the author is an Indian Christian by birth and has had little or no opportunities of dealing judicially with the evils under which the Hindu society is groaning, are a sufficient excuse, if opinions differ as regards the diagnosis and prognosis of the evils for which he provides his own remedy. To some it may appear the remedies suggested are inappropriate or that they are not sufficiently bold and radical or that they are outside the scope of legitimate State interference. The author himself claims that the remedies that he has suggested are essentially just and immediately practicable, e.g., to remove the disqualifications due to sex and to confer equality of status as regards all classes and castes.

We are, however, unable to agree with the broad generalisation indulged in by the author as respects the origin of the institutions he wishes to get altered or with his unsparing condemnation of some of them. E.g. at p. 120, he says, "Generally speaking the caste system taken together with the arrangement known as the joint family has made for poverty, degradation, stagnation and want of enterprise." Again at page 137, "The original temple was probably, in most cases, a Sudra temple." But we are substantially in agreement with the modifications suggested in chapter 5 of book 11 (use of public roads), in chapter 6 (walls, tanks and water courses), in chapter 7 (chairs, offices and public institutions), in chapter 8 (mass education).

The suggestion that the *Mitakshara* joint family system should be altered and brought into line with the *Dayabhaga* system is a far-reaching one and one which requires more careful consideration; but there will be readier acceptance by the public of the suggestions regarding the enlarging of the scope of "self-

acquisition" and the alteration by the legislature of the law relating to "gains of science." It is difficult to appreciate exactly what the author means by the suggestion (at p. 199) "that once a self-acquisition, always a self-acquisition" should be the rule. We are afraid the author does not precisely realise the serious consequences of his suggestion at p. 202, that a man should be given the option to declare that he will follow the Indian Succession Act. Though the book was published in 1929, we are surprised that no reference is made to India Act 11 of 1929 which made certain changes as regards the order of succession of certain cognates in preference to more remote agnates, nor is the Act of 1928 referred to which removed some of the disqualifications under Hindu law for inheritance. There are very many reforms which are urgently necessary in the law of adoption, but it is not clear that legislative interference is called for at this stage. Judicial legislation has not yet exhausted its powers of equitably modifying the anomalies of this branch of the law.

It is however in the realm of "the rights and status of women" that State interference by way of legislation is necessary, and it is just in such matters that the State is unduly and nervously cautious. There is no gainsaying the fact that the anomalies of the Hindu widows' estate and the reversioners' claims should be swept away by the legislature. It will no doubt be a simpler process to confer on women an absolute estate and to give them a share in their fathers' or husbands' property. The author's scheme however of adopting the rules of Intestate succession as laid down in the Indian Succession Act is not likely to be accepted by the Hindu community. The same might be said of his recommendation for compulsory registration of Hindu marriages. That inter-caste marriages should be allowed is a reform that is no longer necessary at this stage. The author seems to have lost sight of the effect of India Act XXX of 1923, with the result that his observations at p. 131 on the Brahma Marriage Act, III of 1872, are out of date. In passing, we may observe that the author is not quite accurate when he says at p. 58 that *anuloma* marriages are not valid at the present time. The trend of recent decisions of the High Courts of Bombay and Madras is to recognise the validity of such marriages, but perhaps we might agree with the author the matter is still not beyond doubt. There are quite a number of other suggestions on other miscellaneous matters which however do not really come within the scope of "legislative remedy for social evils." In conclusion, we would say that it would have been very useful if the author had seen fit to give a summary of the various recommendations he puts forward for legislative action. We are however certain that the publishers have done a really good act for the reform of Hindu society, if this little book leads its readers to think calmly and deeply on the various questions raised in it.

S. SWAMINATHAN.

EXCOMMUNICATION OF WAR.

THE CHRISTIAN'S ALTERNATIVE TO WAR: AN EXAMINATION OF CHRISTIAN PACIFISM. By LEYTON RICHARDS. (Student Christian Movement, London.) 1929. 19cm. 159p. 4/-.

THIS is a valiant effort to deal with a problem which is fast becoming a crucial test with many leaders within Christendom. During the Great War, save for the few outstanding men and women who declared against war, the rest of the people followed the dictates of the State. In one of his books, Prof. Graham Wallas points out that the dignitaries of one church closely followed by sermons and state-

nents the declarations of the State. The author is contemplating 'the reality of a warless world'. His qualification is that in early youth he was brought into touch with the Society of Friends who have always, amidst much contumely, stood for a 'warless world'. In the introductory chapter we have certain startling disclosures regarding the ugly possibilities of the next war if there is to be one. It is said that "the Chemical Warfare Service has discovered a liquid approximately three drops of which, when applied to any part of the skin, will cause a man's death; one plane carrying two tons of the liquid could cover an area 100 feet wide by seven miles long in one trip, and could deposit material to kill every man in that area."

The chapters on the Nature of War contain a fearless exposition of the horrors of war. The first danger is the illusion which surrounds war preventing the ordinary man and woman from seeing 'its essential nature'. Then we have the wrong kind of journalism which daily fosters the idea that warfare is a necessary part of a citizen's duties. Mr. Richards makes pointed reference to the adornment of the entrances to churches with the spoils of war. The cumulative effect of all these different elements is to produce the war-mind. In passing, we may mention that the cinema of the day is creating the cinema-mind with all the taste for the frivolous and the sensational.

In the closing chapter Mr. Leyton Richards makes a powerful appeal to the churches to abandon the principle of 'safety first' and to take a share in the 'sheer recklessness of Jesus in fidelity to the will of God'. The dominant element of 'risk' has to enter into the life of the Christian Church. Enlisting young people in any kind of military discipline will disappear and the creation of the peace atmosphere will become a possibility. It is as the author says 'a psychological situation'. And it lies within the power of the Church to alter the psychology of statecraft by the single device of excommunicating war and all its works from her borders as something alien to the authority of Christ.

The Labour Government has taken up the reduction of war machinery in earnest. How far they will succeed we do not know. But the time seems to be opportune for the churches all over the world to consider the very vigorous and thrilling suggestion of Mr. Leyton Richards 'The Christian Alternative to War.'

H. G. BALASUNDARUM.

SHORT NOTICES.

CHINA'S MILLIONS. By ANNE LOUISE STRONG. (Coward McCann, New York.) 1928. 22cm. 413p. \$4.00.

'CHINA'S MILLIONS' by Anne Louise Strong is an eminently readable book. It is a vivid personal narrative of an American woman who travelled through China in 1927. The year 1927 was a year big with events for China. It witnessed the split in the Kuomintang, the establishment of the Nanking Government by Chiang Kai Shek, the persecution of Labour and Peasant movements in the provinces under Chiang's control, and the strife for supremacy between the War Lords.

The book is a store house of information for those who wish to know China's millions. The authoress deals with the Peasant, Labour and Women move-

ment in China rather than the shifting alliances of self-seeking Tuchuns and opportunist politicians. The style is good and the numerous stories which the authoress narrates, and the illustrations printed in the book make it interesting. The book has a distinctive character of its own, for Anne Louise Strong is able to weave a fascinating web of the Chinese Revolution which few have hitherto done.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM.

HISTORY OF EUROPEAN MORALS. By WILLIAM EDWARD HARTPOLE LECKY. (Vanguard Press.) 1927. 19cm. 115p. \$0.50.

LECKY'S History of European Morals is one of those classics that are always admired and rarely studied. The exhaustive treatment of the subject by the author has been mainly responsible for its bulk and this it is that prevents it from being as widely known as the importance of the subject and the lucidity of the style demand. The Vanguard Press has done a real service by publishing a summary of the great book. Mr. Clement Wood has admirably carried out his part. He has done a lot of pruning and yet preserved the beauty of the original. The handy little volume is really a pocket classic.

R. H. KELKAR.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS. H. A. SILVERMAN. (University Tutorial Press.) 1928. 20cm. 399p. 5/6.

A VOYAGE TO SURAT IN THE YEAR 1639. By J. OVIINGTON. Ed. by H. G. RAWLINSON. (Oxford University Press.) 1929. 20cm. 313p. 12/6.

SELECTED ARTICLES ON THE PACT OF PARIS. Comp. by JAMES THAYER GEROU D. (H. W. Wilson Co., New York.) 1929. 20cm. 287p. \$2.40.

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