

The Servant of India

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Topics of the Week.

Criminal Law in the Punjab.

WE fail to find any justification for the new Bill which has recently been referred to select committee and by which Government intend to take power to refer certain cases involving murderous outrages and criminal conspiracies to special tribunals and to dispense with the preliminary commitment proceedings before a magistrate. The reasons advanced by the Government are that there has been an increase in recent months of murderous outrages and conspiracies to commit crimes of violence, and that such cases take too long to finish, and that witnesses are exposed to great risks and that the preliminary commitment by the magistrate and the subsequent trial involve a double hearing of the same case. It will be seen that the purpose of the Bill is to expedite the trial of such cases, not to prevent them. The Bengal Government was more logical in that they took power to arrest and detain without trial for indefinite periods people suspected of murderous intentions. Here it is merely intended to expedite the trials of people arrested for such crimes. We fail to see how that will check the evil and stamp out conspiracies. The danger to witnesses by the prolongation of trials in the Punjab is overdrawn. The Lahore Conspiracy case is perhaps the solitary case which took long to finish, and that solitary instance

gives no justification for the new Bill. The elimination of the preliminary commitment proceedings by a magistrate is an altogether unwarranted interference with the course of justice. That stage was deliberately interposed in order to give a fair trial to the accused and no objection was even raised on the ground that it meant double trial. Government do not propose to eliminate this double trial in all cases. Why, then should it be eliminated in certain cases? It is in such conspiracy cases that there is greater need for such preliminary proceedings. We hope the Punjab Legislative Council will resolutely decline to pass this obnoxious Bill.

* * *

Sir Sankaran Nair on the Simon Report.

SIR SANKARAN NAIR'S article on the Simon Report published in the latest issue of the *Contemporary Review* contains some sidelights on the methods of work of the Simon Commission. The main justification for the setting up of the provincial Simon Committees and the Indian Central Committee was that they would represent to the Commission, composed as it was exclusively of Englishmen, the Indian point of view. They would doubtless have done so, were an opportunity allowed to them. But Sir Sankaran Nair now tells us, as indeed we have already been told by others, that there was no discussion between these committees and the Commission even on the important questions dealt with in the Report; and that the Commission arrived at its conclusions without any consultation with these committees. But this is not its worst sin. As the Chairman of the Indian Central Committee remarks, "officials were examined to prove Indian incompetence and the necessity of English recruitment for various services including the Civil Service and the Police. Rebutting evidence which was available was not taken." Examining the Commission's proposals regarding the arrangements for Muslim representation, Sir Sankaran Nair exposes the myth of its unanimity. While the Central Committee recommended reservation of seats for minorities in territorial electorates, according to their population or voting strength, whichever was the more favourable to them, the Commission merely contented themselves with voting for the continuance of the *status quo* until an agreed scheme between Hindus and Mahomedans was forthcoming. This he characterises as "a lame conclusion." The Commission was charged with the task of proposing a solution beneficial to India's political development; but they did nothing of the kind. "The real truth" points out Sir Sankaran, "apparently was that there was disagreement among the members of the Simon Commission and they preferred rather to shirk the question than to face it." The great drawback of the scheme of provincial autonomy recommended by the Commission would, according to Sir Sankaran, be that the Governor "may dominate the entire adminis-

tration and compel the ministry to carry out his own views in every department." But there are worse evils concealed in the Simon pattern of provincial government. Sir Sankaran says that under it "the official or Civil Service influence would permeate every department. Dyarchy is thus abolished not to substitute popular control, but to enhance bureaucratic control." But whether one likes the Simon proposals with regard to the provincial governments or not, there is no doubt they mean a step forward. But so far as the Central Government is concerned, "there is no pretence even of any advance"—a point of view which is widely shared in this country. The proposal to create a Federal Assembly is intended to bring in the Indian States into the Indian Federation and in Sir Sankaran Nair's words, "effectively to bar India's progress to democratic self-government." Nor do the Commission's proposals with regard to the Indian army commend themselves to him, as they have failed to do to Indian opinion.

* * *

Effect of Latest Viceregal Ordinance.

THE Government of India's recent appreciation of the Indian situation is rather guarded, and rightly too, in its description of the effect of the latest Viceregal Ordinance on the civil disobedience movement. The immediate result of action under it is stated to be to "discourage the movement." If all that is meant is that the Ordinance has caused temporary dislocation of the movement and some inconvenience to its organisers, the description appears to be faithful to facts. But if what is meant is that the Ordinance has served to draw people away from the movement in question, the description cannot unfortunately be regarded as truthful. Far from having that effect, it has considerably added to the public sympathy for the organisers of the movement. The ordinance was intended to check the civil disobedience movement, a purpose which it can by no means be said to have succeeded in achieving. The result is that the saner section of Indian opinion seems to have serious doubts whether it is not doing more harm than good and to think that nothing would be lost by its withdrawal. It also feels that to put into force such provocative ordinances on the eve of the meetings of the Round Table Conference is not to give the Conference a fair chance; on the contrary, actions such as these reveal a total lack of capacity to understand the difficulties of those who at great sacrifices are trying their best to cooperate with the Government in making the Round Table Conference possible. Considerations such as these must have influenced the Deccan Sabha, a body consisting of sane and sober politicians, when they recently decided to urge upon Government the desirability of withdrawing the Ordinance. May we hope that such disinterested advice will have the desired effect?

* * *

Situation in Sukkur.

A PRESS NOTE explaining the origin of the recent trouble in Sukkur district in Sind has been issued by the Bombay Government. We cannot help saying that it makes sorry reading. The origin of the trouble seems to have lain in a rumour that as the Congress which consists of a majority of Hindus is anti-Government, "the Government had given permission to Mahomedans to loot Hindus." It is a great pity that the rumour should have found credence so far as to induce the Mahomedans to loot Hindus. But would it be right to regard the rumour as utterly groundless? Is there no reason for the Mahomedans holding to the belief that the Hindus having incurred the displeasure of Government, any harm done to them might be officially connived at or at any rate, would not be met with

by too condign punishment? Such a belief on their part seems to us to be the direct result of the policy the Government have been pursuing towards the Hindus in Sind. If the Hindus ask that in appointments to Government service their claims should receive more sympathetic consideration, they are blandly informed that this cannot be, as their representatives in the legislative council oppose Government! It is actions like this that foster the belief referred to above among ignorant and illiterate Mahomedans there, and leads to trouble of the kind we had early in August last in Sukkur. In these circumstances would it be right to blame them for believing that they can molest the Hindus with comparative impunity? They are not the real culprits, but those in authority whose actions were open to the interpretation which the Mahomedans chose to place upon them. If the Sukkur riots awaken the bureaucracy to a sense of the wrong it has been consciously or unconsciously inflicting upon the Hindus they can be said to have served some purpose. Colour will however be lent to the mischievous supposition held by the Mahomedans if the policemen who, according to the findings of the official committee, used excessive force in putting down the Hindu-Muslim riots at Sukkur in August last, were to go unpunished. Public opinion will find it hard to swallow the view of the Committee that in spite of its best efforts it could not trace the culprits. When this matter was recently considered by the Deccan Sabha, it decided to ask for a fresh independent inquiry into the matter by means of a committee composed, besides officials, of non-officials enjoying public confidence. It was suggested in the course of the discussion that if the real offenders cannot be easily spotted out, disciplinary action should be taken against the whole of the police party who were charged with the task of quelling the disturbance. This may sound strange; but if it is not considered wrong to punish whole towns by the levy of the punitive tax for the misdeeds of a few of their inhabitants it is somewhat difficult to understand why on the same analogy disciplinary action should not become possible against whole police parties whose members are found on inquiry to have been guilty of more than the needful use of force. Is it not also the common everyday experience that when students guilty of mischief-making cannot be found, the whole class in which they study is held accountable for their misbehaviour and punished, the same as if everyone of them was guilty? Looked at from this point of view, the proposal referred to above cannot be regarded as so extravagant as it may appear at first sight.

* * *

Blind Relief Work.

THE report of the Blind Relief Association, for Bombay, 1929 is a record of the very beneficent activities carried on by the institution during the eleventh year of its existence. It may not be generally known that blindness is on the increase. According to the 1911 census the number of the blind in the Bombay Presidency was 39,000 which increased by 10,000 in the next ten years. Quite a good part of the evil seems to be avoidable; for the report tells us that more than 75 per cent. of blindness can be prevented or alleviated, if measures are taken in time. It is this problem which the Association is tackling both by means of propaganda as also by practical work. From the account of its preventive work given in the report, it must be said that the work is being carried on systematically and intensively. The Association has published a mass of literature in English and Gujarathi which gives much useful information as to how blindness could be prevented. The literature can be had merely for the

asking. Another of its beneficent activities of which mention should be made here is the supply it makes of spectacles, free of charge, to the needy and the poor. An attempt is made every year to focus public attention on this important problem by organising what is called an All-India Day for the Blind—a celebration which seems to arouse much public interest. Very useful work is also being done for the blind at the mofussil centres of which there cannot be said to be too many at present. That, however, does not mean that in more favourable circumstances more work is not possible. Indeed, we see from the report that the work at some centres is suffering from want of funds. The Chalisingaon centre needs a building of its own very badly and this is likely to cost Rs. 30,000. Then, Bulsar wants a Rest House for the relatives and companions of patients and this will cost Rs. 10,000. We have every hope that the charitably-disposed public of this presidency will liberally respond to the appeal for help which the report makes.

* * *

Education in Baroda.

As one of the earliest Indian States to introduce compulsory education within its borders, the educational statistics of Baroda have a particular interest for us in British India. The general impression on a study of these statistics will be that though education is spreading in the State, progress towards the goal of universal literacy is only at a snail's pace. During the last ten years the percentage of scholars attending schools to those of school age has risen from 60 to a little above 70, though in two districts we find it has gone up to 80. If we take boys separately, the rate of progress is still less satisfactory; it has gone up from 74.5 in 1919-20 to 79.6 in 1928-29 i. e. $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. every year! In point of female education, one would ordinarily expect Baroda district to be most advanced, but so far as the percentage of female scholars at school to those to be eventually brought under instruction goes, Amreli with 73.3 carries the palm, Baroda coming a close second with 70.7, while Navsari comes last with a little less than half of its total female school-age population at school. It is a matter for surprise that even after so many years' working of the compulsory education act in the State—it was promulgated, we believe, in 1906—so much leeway in the matter of the spread of literacy should still have to be made. The general feeling is that though the Government of the State were earnest in the matter of mass education in the beginning, their earnestness has since suffered a setback—an impression borne out by these figures. Else it is difficult to account for the fact that even more than twenty years' working of compulsion has not resulted in universal literacy in the State. It is needless to say that the situation is far more unsatisfactory with regard to the higher branches of education. While the number of men students in the Baroda College increased by 110 during a whole decade, that of lady students is practically stationary, being 12 in 1919-20 and 11 in 1928-29. The figures relating to high schools are of course more hope-inspiring. We find the number of male students there rising from 3,358 to 5,481, while that of female students by 100 per cent., from 283 to 499, during the same period. Even so we are afraid the progress is not all that it should be. What is really needed is strenuous efforts to reach the goal of universalisation of education in as short a time as possible. We should have liked to ascertain the extent of the spread of literacy among the depressed classes but the educational statistics in the Statistics Abstract do not show these figures separately.

* * *

Articles.

AFTER THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

THERE is a general feeling in Geneva that, with the Eleventh Assembly now concluded, the various Assembly committees have reached bed-rock. This was reflected in the attitude of many delegates and not the least in the discussions about the minorities questions, and in Mr. Henderson's speech on disarmament. Mr. Motta, the representative of Switzerland, indicated that henceforth the Governments trying to cooperate through the League must work intensively rather than extensively and must avoid adding further to the list of unratified and consequently ineffective conventions. Some idea of the present position in this regard may be had from a study which has elicited the fact that out of 39 conventions, agreements and protocols, 26 have come into force, 552 ratifications altogether have been deposited, while 553 signatures remain unratified.

Should the work of the League be further fruitful, it is evident that in addition to carrying on the routine work which its organisation as well as the activities set on foot in the last ten years necessitate, it should be in a position to inaugurate a new policy. This has become a necessity in the political as well as in the economic field. Politically while Mr. Henderson is no doubt right in emphasizing disarmament as he did in this Assembly, plainly disarmament cannot advance without security. Security rests on legal and moral grounds. As regards its legal grounds, a letter published in the *Times* of September 22 has some significant remarks:

"Experience is now teaching us" says the writer, "that the lucidity of international agreement is usually in inverse proportion to the number of states that sign them. The very facility of legislation which the Geneva machinery affords has its own dangers. Draftsmen find refuge in formulas which admit of many meanings, and the ambiguities of the original text are usually multiplied by the "reservations" attached to the signatures. For example, nearly all the states which have signed the "Optional Clause" have done so with far-reaching and widely different reservations. Our own is the most complicated of any, and contains at least no serious ambiguities. The experience of the War proved that the Hague Conventions of 1907 were vitiated by this same defect, and the collapse of the recent Codification Conference at the Hague illustrates the impossibility of inducing a large number of Governments to agree upon definite and unambiguous rules of law."

Coming to moral grounds, it was interesting to note the effect of the German elections on the European statesmen who were assembled in Geneva. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that it was to create a vast interrogation about the future. The preponderance of the Communistic and Socialistic elements, the economic situation, the industrial depression and the appearance of militaristic forces in Germany, all alike point to grave possibilities. In France public opinion has been so alarmed that there is open talk of repudiation of M. Briand's policy and even such advanced Socialists as Paul Boncour and Herriot are swinging round to the opinion that in the concen-

tration of her national forces must lie the safety of France in such a circumstance.

The political situation is undoubtedly aggravated by the economic crisis. Prosperity, by bringing contentment, may put into shade the political causes until they are altogether submerged. The result of the economic crisis is however just the opposite, and it would seem that whether for easing the tension in the political or economic sphere, some big forward step needs to be taken.

The question naturally arises, what is that step? Ten years of international co-operation at Geneva have taught us that while in the circumstances of to-day world order must be thought of unversally, to make any definite progress, leadership and organisation are inevitable. It is a critical moment in the history of Europe and, as it happens on such occasions, its structure is laid bare. Since the armistice and the formation of the League the world has seen many changes. Regional movements have appeared. America, the Latin bloc of the South American states, and Russia have shown themselves to be definite political forces of the first order. Nevertheless, the centre of the Western European system remains the same as ever and is to be found in the *Entente Cordiale*.

Europe will change beyond recognition, (whether for good or ill) if there is a change in this centre. It cannot be said that the *Entente* is today as cordial as it was in the years immediately following the war. A number of factors such as the politics of the London Naval Conference, the diplomatic transactions between the French and American Governments preparatory to the Paris Pact, the Debt Question have all poisoned Franco-British relations. There is no ill feeling between the two countries. But there is no more that tie of mutually appreciated association which once existed. Franco-German friendship is at present as far-off as ever, and a new balance of power in Europe with America in the position in which she is to-day and Russia, still revolutionary, is precarious in the extreme. The British navy will not be so free as before even in European waters and clearly it cannot be to the interest of Britain to encourage a competitor such as Germany. Apart from the question of any war, which is admittedly outside the thoughts of everyone, a revolution in Germany will be a menace to Europe. Neither France nor England will long remain unaffected by it.

If normal order and contentment should be established again, it can only be by means of improvement in the economic situation. Here too, the key to the position is the possibility of collaboration between France and England. There is consequently nearly as much interest on the continent of Europe about the Imperial Conference now in session in London as about the political situation in Germany.

"The old unity based upon the supremacy of the Imperial Government and the Imperial Parliament has disappeared as a result of long process of constitutional development" says the *Times*, "and the way is open for a new unity."

Upon the nature of this new unity will obviously depend British foreign policy and that in turn must decide the future of Europe, and the future of the League.

BRITISH OPINION ON THE RIGHT TO SECEDE.

THE announcement of the personnel of the British Delegation appears to have had on the whole a good reception in the British Press. The *Times* regards it as "very much more satisfactory than there seemed reason at one time to anticipate;" and emphasises the need of the British delegates losing "no time in finding common ground." This is nothing short of asking the British delegation to attend the Conference with some sort of a common agreement, at any rate on the more important issues, amongst themselves. If this happened and the British Government came to the Conference with their mind made up on matters forming subjects of consideration by the Conference, it would violate the promise so often repeated authoritatively during the last twelve months that it would be a perfectly free conference. Even so we should not be surprised if this should ultimately come to pass. Very few in this country can have an adequate conception of the profound influence exercised by the *Times* on the course of British politics. Thus we find that long before the idea was even whispered by anybody it asked for the association of representatives of the Opposition parties with those of the Labour Government at the Round Table Conference with the result that despite strong Indian opposition the idea has become a reality. Then, it mooted the suggestion of the leaders of the Opposition keeping out of the Conference, which has since been acted upon. Likewise its present suggestion too may perhaps be translated into action before long. But let us hope for the best.

The *Daily Herald* writes as follows on the same subject:

With the nomination of the thirteen British members the personnel of the India Round-Table Conference is complete.

The British delegation, irrespective of party, will, we are convinced, enter the Conference with a very deep sense of the tremendous responsibility that lies on its shoulders.

Should the Conference fail to produce a plan for the fulfilment of India's national aspirations acceptable both to the Indian and the British peoples the future is very dark indeed.

Should it succeed, we are still not without hope that the co-operation of the Congress leaders in working out the difficult problems of the transition period may be secured.

The essential condition for success is that on both sides the work of the Conference shall be approached not in a spirit of bargaining between opposed interests but in a spirit of co-operation in securing a common objective.

The question of the right to secede continues to be the subject of controversy. To "life-long Imperialists" like Lord Sydenham it is of course nothing short of a red rag. But people more in touch with the present-day aspirations of political India have apparently begun to look upon it as a matter of practical politics and to think about the safeguards under which its exercise should be allowed. A correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian* refers to the League of Nations which allows a member to withdraw after two years' notice, if "all its international obligations and all its obligations under this covenant shall have been fulfilled at the time of its withdrawal." If the right

is allowed, he points out that "the legal bond uniting the members of the British Commonwealth will be weaker than the normal tie of an international alliance or the association subsisting between members of the League of Nations." He expresses the opinion that the change in Imperial relationship involved in the admission of the right is too drastic to be carried out merely by a resolution of the Imperial Conference. He concedes that it "can reach conclusions as to the manner in which existing legal powers may or will be exercised," but "it cannot change the fundamentals of the constitution." This would necessitate a treaty on the Irish model and "will need legislative sanction not only in the mother country but also in all the Dominions." But he has his doubts whether for such a radical constitutional change even a treaty will be enough. After pointing out other difficulties in the way of the admission of this right, the correspondent asks,

Would it be well to follow the American precedent and require some definite majority in the appropriate legislative organ or organs or on referendum? May a notice to secede take effect at once, or should the Covenant of the League be followed and a definite delay for reflection be provided?

But if by the demand for the admission of the right to go out of the Empire, he remarks out,

all that is meant is that those who raise the question seek a friendly assurance that if a member of the British Commonwealth, capable of standing alone, unmistakably and with some approach to unanimity manifests its wish to sever its tie with the other members the Mother Country will not repeat the mistake of George III and seek to retain the departing member by military force. If this is all, a political assurance to this effect is no great matter; it merely expresses what we all know to be true.

Mr. W. Horsfall Carter writing to the same paper says that he "can entirely appreciate the resentment of educated Indians that a status recognised in the international field should still be refused to their country by Great Britain." He then differentiates equality of status from equality of function which is not, as everybody knows, even yet possessed by the Dominions. He then remarks:

Great Britain recognises the adult status of her daughter nations, while preserving, as she is entitled to, her own status of Mother Country, whereby she still exercises certain functions on behalf of her daughters.

At the 1926 Imperial Conference India was, in fact, brutally reminded by a too motherly mother that she was not to be considered an adult people, although in the international community she is recognised as an adult. My contention is that until this preliminary act of reparation to Indian self-respect is performed there is no hope of grappling with the realities of the Indian problem. To the Indians, after all, this is the most important reality, although it is very difficult for the unimaginative Englishman to look at things in that way. When this preliminary demand for equality of status has been satisfied, however, when, in fact, the Balfour Declaration of 1926 has been extended to cover India, together with the other daughter nations of Great Britain which already have the name of Dominion, the sting of the present conflict will be drawn and it will be really possible to obtain collaboration in working out a new Constitution.

Mr. Carter closes his letter with the suggestion that the Prime Minister should at an early date "publicly proclaim this essential distinction between sta-

tus and function" which was in fact recognised by the 1926 Imperial Conference:

"In this way" says Mr. Carter, "the very phrase 'Dominion status' may yet prove the bridge for which all men of goodwill and common sense are seeking. Without some such preliminary move the fate of the Round-table Conference is sealed."

D. V. A.

THE LABOUR PARTY AND INDIA.

THIS article is written whilst I am travelling back to London from the annual Conference of the Labour Party at Llandadno. Before I indicate the attitude which the Conference took towards the Indian situation, it may be of interest to sum up my impressions of the Conference as a whole. Whilst the issue of Indian self-government will, I believe, be settled primarily in India, depending much more on the strength of the demand and its effective expression through organisation and pressure, the political situation in India must necessarily affect it. The trend of Labour opinion and the fortunes of the Party on general issues must, therefore, be of some significance to India.

The present indications certainly point to a General Election within a few months and the defeat of the Labour Government at the polls. The mounting Unemployment figures and the failure of the Government effectively to deal with the problem have caused disappointment among the supporters of the Labour Party and political apathy among thousands of working class voters. The disillusioned abstention of working class voters rather than any substantial increase in the Conservative or Liberal vote is likely to bring about the defeat of Labour.

The Labour Party Conference had an uneasy realisation of this at the back of its mind. It was not prepared to support the I. L. P. vote of censure upon the Government for its Unemployment failure, but almost every speech was critical. Still more significant was the ignominious defeat of Mr. J. H. Thomas for membership of the Executive of the Party. He was at the bottom of the poll, despite the powerful influence of the Railwaymen's Union, which nominated him. The main factor in bringing about his defeat was undoubtedly his lack of success when Minister specially responsible for dealing with Unemployment.

Equally significant was the triumphant election to the Executive of Sir Oswald Mosley, who resigned from the Government owing to the rejection of his Unemployment programme, and the astonishingly enthusiastic welcome given to him when he spoke. In a sense, this has been Oswald Mosley's Conference.

The I. L. P., led by James Maxton, has been steadily defeated throughout the Conference, but the importance of this can be exaggerated. The I. L. P. motions secured 400,000 votes in a Conference representing 2,000,000; that is to say, one-fifth of the Conference, which is a large proportion, considering the vigour of the criticism and the boldness of the policy which they contained. But more important than the votes within the Conference is the strength of the support outside. The I. L. P.'s challenging

leadership of the "Left" at the Conference will draw to it the great volume of dissatisfaction outside.

Such being the temper of the Conference, what will be its effect upon the Labour Government and the political situation in Britain? It is likely to stir the Government to greater efforts to deal more adequately with Unemployment, but no drastic change of policy is likely. I think that the more probable result is a determination on the part of the Government to introduce some popular measure within a short time—for example a doubled pension for the aged—and to stand or fall upon it. The longer the Government is in office, the worse the situation will become. Since the Government will not adopt a bold policy all round, the only hope of saving the Labour Party from utter defeat is to go to the electorate on a single, simple proposal, whose popularity might at least awaken a degree of democratic enthusiasm.

Now, a word or two about the Indian issue at the Conference. The I. I. P. tabled a vote of censure regretting that the Government "did not (a) in its early stages accept full responsible government as the basis of a conference with the Indian representatives, and (b) release the Indian political prisoners, thus securing an atmosphere of goodwill." The resolution strongly condemned the severe repression, and called upon the Government "to end the function of serving as the policeman of Imperialism," by withdrawing all repressive measures, liberating the political offenders, and opening negotiations to transfer political power from British to Indian hands.

To this an amendment was moved, congratulating the Government upon its refusal to confine the Round Table Conference to the discussion of the Simon Report and hoping that the result will be self-government at the earliest possible date.

The resolution which I moved was opposed by Commander Kenworthy and Major Graham Pole, on the ground that nothing should be done to harm the prospects of the Round Table Conference. But one significant point should be noted. The Conference declined to adopt the amendment as well as the resolution. It shelved them both by the device of reverting to the "previous question." I think this meant that whilst the Party is not prepared to censure its own Government, it is uneasy about the policy being pursued and is not in the mood to give it whole-hearted endorsement.

A. FENNER BROCKWAY.

HOUSING CONDITIONS OF LEATHER WORKERS IN MADRAS.

A FEW months ago we conducted an inquiry into the housing conditions of 55 families of leather workers living in Triplicane, a part of Madras. In social position the leather workers occupy the lowest rank. Being untouchables they cannot live as co-tenants with people of other castes. The 55 families lived in 14 houses exclusively tenanted by themselves. One result of their not being allowed to live in houses tenanted by other castes was that all

the houses tenanted by the leather workers were overcrowded. When any family was obliged to shift from a house, it could not get into one occupied by people of other castes, but had to squeeze itself into one occupied by leather workers though it may already be overcrowded.

The houses were situated in 5 different lanes, three or four in each lane. A large number of them had mud walls with low roofs of ordinary tiles. A few of the houses were of brick and were terraced. In one case a few kerosene tins flattened and fixed to bamboo poles formed the roof and old torn gunnies hung on two poles at right angles formed the walls of a so-called dwelling. In the rainy season, we were told, it would be inundated with rain water when it ceased to be a dwelling. In two houses the floor was on a lower level than the street. In rainy season rain water would find its way into the house and render the floor damp and unfit for habitation. On such days, the doors are removed, it appears, and used as bedsteads. In three houses the entrance was so low that we had to nearly double ourselves for entering them.

Most of the houses were surrounded on all sides by storied houses and therefore could get no breeze from the sea or from any other direction. No doubt several of these houses had windows and open courtyards in the centre, but they did not let in sufficient light and air inside. In two houses the rooms were so dark that we had to see things inside with the aid of a lamp, though it was 11 a. m. Some of the houses had no windows at all and consequently no ventilation.

Sanitation. Few houses had any good drains, with the result that water collected in front of them. In a lane which was only 4 ft. wide there was a drain running on one side, and on the other was a row of 5 houses, their verandahs lining the lane. In this lane all the washing and bathing by the five families were done. Needless to say it was one of the dirtiest lanes that one could come across.

Occupation. Some of these leather workers run their own shops. The majority of them work for wages in shops. Some of them work in their own houses. Before the advent of motor cars they had plenty of work and some of them had built up good businesses. During the war also they were getting good wages, but now owing to motor cars having displaced horse-carriages (and busses having mostly displaced jutkas) there is very little demand for their work and wages have fallen. They have not taken to motor driving, motor repairs, busbody-building and other industries connected with motor transport.

Income. The earnings of even persons working in their own shops were mentioned to us in terms of daily wages. In no case was the earning or wage of a man mentioned as higher than one rupee a day. The most usual wage for a man was annas twelve. Old men and lads under twenty got Re. 0-8-0 and even Re. 0-6-0. For boys between twelve and sixteen the wages range from Re. 0-2-0 to Re. 0-6-0. Women generally confined themselves to household duties. In the 55 families there were 80 earning males but only 5 earning females of whom two were widows and three married women. The usual earning of a woman was As. 3 to As. 4 a day.

The earnings of the 55 families (80 male and 5 female earning members) came to Rs. 53-13-0 a day giving an average of Re. 0-15-8 per family. As there were 252 souls in all the income per head worked out at As. 3-5 a day. The per capita income was higher in smaller families than in the larger ones, as the following analysis will show:

No. of members in family	No. of families.	Average daily earning per family.			Average per capita income.		
		Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
2	8	0	9	3	0	4	8
3	9	0	12	5	0	4	1
4	11	1	0	4	0	4	1
5	10	1	1	6	0	3	6
6	9	1	1	11	0	2	11

The remaining 7 families consisted of 7 to 12 members each, as analysed below :

No. of members.	No. of families.
7	2
8	2
9	1
10	1
12	1

The average earning of these seven families was Re. 1-6-0 a family a day. The average per head came to As. 2-6 a day.

Accommodation.—As already stated the 55 families occupied 14 houses. Only 5 families lived in their own houses. One lived in the house in his right as usufructory mortgagee. Of the others 45 paid rent and 4 paid no rent, but were allowed to occupy portions by obliging relations. 8 families including the owners of houses lived in two-room tenements with or without verandahs. The other families had only one room each with a portion of a verandah in addition in most cases. That is to say, 87 per cent. of the families lived in single-room tenements with verandahs. The dimensions of the room varied between 8ft. by 5ft. and 11ft. by 8ft. The men did not usually sleep in the houses, but slept in their places of work or on shop pials in the Triplicane High Road or Mount Road. The women invariably went to hospitals for confinement.

In one of the best houses we saw there were five rooms and six families. The house had a latrine and a pipe and six families together paid a rent of Rs. 19-2-0 a month. The highest rent paid was Rs. 4 and the lowest Re. 1-8-0. Five families occupied a room each, but the sixth family had only a portion of the *Kudam* 8ft. by 3ft. which was divided off from the rest of the *kudam* by a gunny screen attached to a bamboo pole. In the corners were a few pots. Next to them the woman was cooking and close by was her baby lying on a piece of mat. A couple of feet farther her husband was doing his cobbler's work. Two other families were cooking their food in the verandah.

Rent.—Forty-five families paid rent ranging from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 5. The majority of these houses belonged to Muhammadan landlords who were very strict in the collection of rents. If rents were not paid in time the landlord forcibly removed the things from the houses and turned out the tenants. Hence payment of rent was prompt and regular.

The following table gives an analysis of the rent paid by the families, their average daily income and the percentage of rent to income :

Monthly rent paid.			No. of families.	Average income per family per day.			Percentage of rent to income.
Rs.	As.	Ps.		Rs.	As.	Ps.	
1	8	0	3	0	8	4	9.6
2	0	0	8	0	15	9	6.8
2	4	0	1	0	11	0	11.0
2	8	0	8	0	14	0	9.5
2	10	0	1	0	14	6	9.7
3	0	0	8	0	15	9	10.2
3	8	0	3	1	1	0	11.0
4	0	0	11	1	2	8	11.4
5	0	0	2	0	15	6	17.2

45 tenants paid a total rent of Rs. 133-14-0 a month. The total income per day was Rs. 43-13-6. They paid on an average 10.2 per cent. of their income as rent.

Conclusion.—These conditions speak for themselves. The overcrowding and lack of accommodation were almost unbearable. As they were all accustomed to pay rent they may be expected to gladly occupy any houses which the Corporation or any other public utility society may build for their benefit. As a beginning some 50 houses of a suitable type may be built and made available for them at a rent not exceeding Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3. This, we believe, will go a long way to relieve the overcrowding and congestion in the City.

S. R. VENKATA RAMAN.

Our European Letter.

THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

GENEVA, OCTOBER 4.

THE Assembly is over, and the most important work of the session is, by common consent, the acceptance of the final draft convention for financial assistance in case of aggression. It has already been signed by several leading states and constitutes an important advance in international co-operation for the prevention of war.

There are other gains which the session just past has brought. Among these must be reckoned the economic programme determined by the Second Committee. At present, 19 states have signed the convention and 23 have signed the Protocol regarding the programme for future negotiations to bring about the tariff truce. A Conference of Government delegates in November will determine to what extent progress can be made on the lines laid down. There are evidently some serious difficulties to be faced here, such as the cleavage between the Eastern European agricultural states and overseas agricultural countries on the one hand, and states like Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Great Britain, on the other. While these last insist on the unconditional interpretation of the most favoured nation clause, the former are naturally opposed to any such preferential treatment and contend that it would be inconsistent with the condition of the covenant prescribing "the equitable treatment of Commerce." Great as these difficulties are, their very urgency raises the expectation that after all, international co-operation in Europe in the economic field may yet be brought about. That, at any rate, is going to be the test of M. Briand's famous idea of the European Federation, as this work is closely connected with the newly appointed Commission of Enquiry on European Union which is the result of the French Foreign Minister's move.

The decision to summon a conference next spring for the limitation of opium and other dangerous drugs is noteworthy in view of the fact that it comes after the preliminary meeting of manufacturing countries at the end of this month in London, and consequently has some chances of success.

The rather heated debates in the fourth Committee concerning reorganisation of the Secretariat

have resulted in a compromise. The principle of internationality in the Secretariat has now been consolidated, and it has been decided to institute an oath of fealty which every official will be called upon to take in future. The pension scheme and the principle of long term appointments have also found acceptance, but with regard to the debated point of increase in the number of Under-Secretaries General, for political reasons, the Assembly could not arrive at a decision. The proposal goes again to a newly constituted Committee for consideration. Sir Atul Chatterjee has been nominated a member of this Committee. The Indian representative who took part in the debates on this subject in the Assembly fought hard for the appointment of a larger number of the higher officials obviously in view of the fact that any influence that India (or countries like India) can secure in the councils of the League must be in virtue of their nationals occupying such positions.

The failure which marks this session is the breakdown of the attempt to bridge the gap between the Paris Pact and the League Covenant initiated by Mr. Henderson in the last Assembly. The failure to bring the Covenant into line with the Pact is undoubtedly a serious blow to the psychology of peace. It is at once both an indication of security not being so advanced that the nations can accept to renounce the sanctions embodied in the Covenant and of the obligations assumed by them in the Paris Pact not being as certain as it may appear.

In addition to the Maharaja of Bikaner to whose opening speech reference has already been made in these columns, several members of the Indian Delegation participated in the work of the Assembly. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikari distinguished himself by his speeches on Intellectual Co-operation and Health Organisation, and Sir Jehangir Coyajee by securing acceptance of his proposal that the League should conduct an enquiry into the nature of the wide-spread depression, now prevailing, with due regard to the interests of every part. Sir Denys Bray spoke on the scheme for Financial Assistance, and Sir Zulfiar Ali Khan, Sir B. K. Mallik and Mr. Croft, the Secretary General of the Delegation, represented the Government of India in the Committee which examined the question of the Drug Traffic. Mr. Bajpai took a conspicuous part in the discussion over the proposals touching the reorganisation of the Secretariat.

Reviews.

DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYA.

BRITISH MALAYA. AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF BRITISH INFLUENCE IN MALAYA. By SIR FRANK SWETTENHAM. (John Lane the Bodley Head, London.) 1929. 23 cm. 372 p. 12/6.

THE pro-consular pen has been wielded with no less distinction than the sword of office by statesmen who have governed Malaya. Swettenham and Clifford are honoured names in literature and their services to the world rank high, because of their writings on Malaya and its people.

This book particularly is an expression of the author's personality and in a sense 'an apologia' for his life work, though, as he himself observes, he has taken care "to scotch the personal pronoun" wherever possible; and it is in the fitness of things that his name is associated with the capital of the F. M. S. (Federated Malay States) through Port Swettenham, the Port of Kuala Lumpur.

The very name of the capital, (Kuala-river port, and Lumpur-mud or swamp in Malay) is indicative of the romantic change that has come over the country, and it will seem incredible to the visitor today, that this modern metropolis, with its huge buildings and teeming marts, was, but fifty years ago, a small swampy Chinese village, where, from an open shed, the Chinese headman literally justified his title by paying out dollars for the heads of his foes and thus doing his bit to help the Sultan govern (vide p. 130).

The march towards civilization and modernity has been since then, a sort of geometrical progression and, no wonder, ever since the original writing of the book to the present edition, Sir Frank finds himself out of date; and the last chapter by way of supplement "Twenty-five years after", we find, cannot be as accurate a picture of the Malaya that is and is to be, as that of the country he worked in and delineated at firsthand.

The author's interest in the Colony portion viz., Penang, Malacca, Singapore, etc. is only historical; myth and ancient legend, European trade settlements, the East India Company, the connection with India, with the pageantry of a Governor General's expedition, (especially as described by the Malay diarist Abdullah), the severance from Indian control, the variations of policy towards the various princes, have all been pressed into service to provide, as it were, a historical background for the rise of the Protected Malay States. Only, in touching upon the transition, the author almost tempts the reader to think that Colonel Ord's coming upon the scene was somewhat like that of King Stork where King Log from distant India, had failed to make impression—this in spite of the author's avowed admiration for rapid and efficient methods in colonial administration. (pp. 104 *et. seq.*)

The rise and growth of the four Malay States, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang is the main theme of the author with Federation as the denouement. We again seem to read bits of Indian history so familiar to us in the Elementary School Primers of old; of quarrels between usurping Princes and rightful heirs, the request for intervention, the stages of actual interference, now one of half reluctance, now one of weakly negotiation with fits of total abstention in between, till finally, half-hearted measures are given up and British advice is understood on all hands as British control;—but not till there have been unpleasant doings and chief among these the murder of the British Resident at Perak and not also till some order has been evolved out of a state of chaos by pioneer officers, (among them the author), who adapt themselves readily to every unforeseen occasion and strange scene.

Sir Frank is on ground all his own, in his chapter on the Malays, their character and customs. He presents them in their best aspects as a loveable, charming, and happy people, albeit one, not vocal, thrifty or ambitious in any degree. Though his outlook is in a way that of the benovolent autocrat of Victorian days, his rare sympathy for and genuine understanding of the people give him a right to be their spokesman and champion.

To the Chinese and their work in developing the country from before the days of European enterprise, Sir Frank pays a well deserved tribute. Only, one

could wish that the author had been also as generous towards the Indian element in the country, especially as he almost hints and makes us expect that he would treat at some length on the subject. The Indian cooly and in his wake the Krani (or clerk) have shared between them the work of plantation, roads and railways and office routine. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is mentioned, but not his equally important counterpart for Indian affairs. The Controller of Labour and his staff of European and Indian assistants are the custodians of not merely the interests of Indian Labour (or 'Jenji' as in the days of indentured labour, the bonded cooly was known), but of all matters, social, religious and economic, that affect the Indian community in Malaya. But this is perhaps because this great development in the Labour Department has been only of recent years, thanks to the vigilant policy of the Government of India backed by non-official opinion. The Indian reader cannot however let pass unnoticed a vicious fling that Sir Frank should delight in having at Indian education and its product—in his description, 'the occasionally startling, sometimes grotesque and often pathetic product of the British Indian Schools' (p. 259).

Federation, opening up of the country, inflow of European capital, planting of coffee and rubber, tin-mining, roads and railways, free trade and prosperity are themes on which Sir Frank's muse sings with cheerful optimism. But alas! within the past decade there have been a number of slumps, in rubber and even at the time of writing, news is to hand of the return of the immigrant coolies back to India consequent on the slump and trade depression.

The theory of trusteeship which Sir Frank holds forth as laudable has incidentally been the cause of mischief through the introduction of the colour bar, Asiatic *versus* European, in the land of the Malay. It is refreshing to note that Sir Frank has realised in his supplementary chapter that he has been a false prophet regarding the Unfederated States, Johore especially. Siamese policy also today is marked by amicable intercourse, witness the linking of Bang-kok to Singapore by the Siamese Railways, and note the jealous look that Sir Frank has accustomed us to in his pages.

Singapore and Raffles, Kuala Lumpur and Swettenham are links which bind races and cultures. Both the statesmen have writ their names large on the country and have been duly honoured therein; where zeal for mere Imperial interest has not tied up their spirits, these two are true servants of humanity and fore-runners of the international spirit and the League of Nations.

Before closing the review, one cannot but refer to the statistical appendices and excellent illustrations; these form a record, not less vivid than the written word, and help to show the country's progress in graphic manner; even here, in the photograph of the Government Offices at Kuala Lumpur one's imagination easily supplies the stunted figure of Sir Frank looking towards the Capital of the Federation, his handi-work,—memorial alike with this book to his illustrious association with Malaya.

B. RATNAM.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE PROBLEM.

THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF NATIVE SEGREGATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. By JOHN KIRK. (King, London.) 1929. 20 cm. 149 p. 6/-

THE author is one of those who believe that although religious, social and humanitarian factors influence the progress and development of a people, yet the most important factor is economic; and in this small

book he has attempted to explain the 'Native Problem' of South Africa from the economic standpoint.

To-day the South African Union has a native population of nearly 12 millions while the white population numbers only 3 quarters of a million. In the beginning of the European Occupation of South Africa the presence of Native labour was considered a great blessing because without that cheap and docile labour it would not have been possible to develop the agricultural and mineral resources of that sub-continent. But in course of time Native labour on account of its cheapness, docility and capacity for hard work has ousted the White labour from all unskilled and many skilled occupations. Thus the blessing has become an economic menace and has alarmed the Whites of the Union. Different methods of artificially helping the unskilled and semi-skilled European labourer are suggested. One of these is to raise Native wages and equalize them with those of the White. But the proposal is not liked by the farmers, mine-owners and proprietors of private concerns because it is likely to increase the cost of production without giving much relief to the White labourer. The author agrees with them but does not see any objection to employing White labourers on higher wages in Government and municipal concerns. This is rather a dangerous doctrine, because the modern tendency of Governments is to take more and more active part in economic functions; and if Mr. Kirk's proposal to employ only White labour on Government railways and municipal works is accepted, the Native will have to forego the opportunity of improving his lot by working in higher occupations.

Another proposal to meet the danger is to segregate the Native completely. He should be confined to special areas which he should not leave even to find work in towns or on European-owned farms. This is advocated to make the Union a "White man's land," to prevent the Native from capturing the industries, to provide against a general Native rebellion and to solve satisfactorily the "poor white problem". The author examines carefully all the arguments advanced in favour of complete segregation and comes to the conclusion that complete segregation is neither morally justifiable nor economically advantageous. His solution is a scheme called the 'possessory segregation' which aims at setting aside certain areas for the Native to own. He wants to segregate the Native in respect to land but not in respect to labour. It is advocated, in order to check social intermixture of the two races, to facilitate the Native administration and local government and to improve Native farming. Unrestricted intercourse of the two races has injured the health and morals of the Native. Without some restrictions the European is likely to take advantage of the Native's ignorance and poverty and rob him of all fertile and well-watered land. The author justifies the system of possessory segregation because he thinks that it will secure the physical and moral welfare of the Native, will protect him against the land-grabbing lust of the Europeans and will prevent the South African land being uneconomically worked by the Native, who is a bad farmer. The author proposes to solve the South African Native problem by segregating the possessory rights of the two races and thus preventing the cheap Native labour from competing with the White labour. He wants the Native to advance but he does not indulge in the tall talk about the "White man's burden" and "the White man's sacred mission" as is done in some parts of the British Empire. He frankly says the White man has conquered South Africa and he wants to make it his permanent home. The author does not think it advisable to exterminate the Native. He wants him to thrive without jeopardizing the economic existence of

the White conqueror. For this candour he deserves congratulations. His book will provide thought-provoking reading to those, who are interested in the struggle of the Indian immigrants to South Africa and to other parts of the British Empire.

B. H. NAIK.

LORD DARLING AS A JUDGE.

LORD DARLING AND HIS FAMOUS TRIALS.

By EVELYN GRAHAM. (Hutchinson, London.)
1929. 24 cm. 287 p. 21/-.

'Paint me as I am'—*Oliver Cromwell.*

THERE are but few who would like to be painted as they are and no one can blame Lord Darling if he is not one of them. As we ordinarily go to artists who retouch our pictures almost out of recognition so Lord Darling has chosen for his biographer an artist who is accustomed to smooth all furrows and fill up hollows or who leaves some of them only for the purpose of ornamentation. It must be said to the credit of Mr. Graham that he has done his work well. So much for the execution of the work.

Lord Darling at the Bench, Lord Darling in Parliament and Lord Darling as a composer of books are the three suitable divisions of Mr. Graham's narrative. Darling, it is said, received the special attention of Lord Halsbury and owed his elevation to the Bench to Lord Halsbury's good offices. There was much resentment felt and expressed at this favouritism, as was inevitable. But Lord Darling justified his selection and though he did not silence his critics he satisfied the public at large.

The biographer Mr. Evelyn Graham has attributed numerous qualities of head and heart to Mr. Darling the judge, some of them real and others imaginary. We are told that Mr. Darling was endowed with sturdy commonsense, catholic sympathies, wide and accurate knowledge of law, quick appreciation, unflinching courtesy towards the bar, a wonderful mastery over words and choice of expression, presence of mind and ready wit, quickness of decision, etc. What emerges, however, from a reading of his conduct of the trials, his addresses and his judgments is that he was a steady matter-of-fact judge with a fair degree of learning almost inevitable after an experience extending over a number of years. With a certain amount of independence and versatility added to the qualities set out above, he easily became a judge whom the litigants feared and in whom the public felt interested. Clever counsel naturally loved to appear before him; they always do before simple and outspoken judges.

When all is said, however, it must be confessed that Lord Darling did not distinguish himself by any breadth of outlook or by depth of learning. Neither had he the composure and penetrating intelligence which are among the foremost virtues of a great judge. Similarly he lacked the deep sincerity coupled with a consciousness of human fallibility which go to make up the faith of a judge. He was sincere no doubt in his own way but it was a shallow kind of sincerity, satisfied with his own judgment and looking to nothing beyond.

The biographer confesses and the public knows but too well that outbursts of humour were among the besetting sins of Justice Darling. This has no doubt become somewhat fashionable in our days since it leads to easy publicity. One is naturally put in mind of several judges of our own High Court who affected this accomplishment. Humour in its proper place is a most invaluable thing and coming from a judge it can set at ease the minds of the contending parties, the witnesses and the jury. But if

it is wantonly used merely for personal display, it is a very bad weapon. It wounds the hearer and distorts the judicial outlook. Coming from a judge who has the last word in most matters the harm it causes is irremediable; and for this reason the quality of humour is considered inappropriate, at least a dangerous accomplishment, in a judge.

The foremost of Lord Darling's disqualifications as a judge and which one feels constrained to record is his parochial and almost conceited outlook on matters in general. No doubt we all of us have our social and national limitations. But to consider those as compassing the entire and final truth of existence is to betray narrowness—to confess that one has learnt nothing in life. And nowhere did this weakness of Lord Darling become more apparent than in his conduct of the famous trial of Tilak vs. Chirol—a trial to which Mr. Graham wisely makes no reference. Unfortunately Mr. Darling was led on by that master of raillery and invective, Sir Edward Carson, who appeared for Sir Valentine Chirol. But the fact remains that Mr. Justice Darling permitted him to do so. And while summing up he had not even that excuse; it was wholly his. The summing-up was a bitter invective not so much against Mr. Tilak as against everything that was done in India against British rule. And the concluding chorus was that a man who associated with a political movement against British rule could hardly be considered to have any character at all that was capable of being lowered. The judgment of a man in the street may easily be warped by such intense prejudice; but in a judge (who is claimed to be a great judge) it is certainly unpardonable. At least in India we felt it to be so.

His literary activities put him in his proper place. The topics he has chosen whether in verse or prose are of a very casual character. There is no special contribution he has to make on any subject and yet he writes very neatly and in an arresting manner the very trifles he has handled. For instance, the plagiarism he discovered in a verse of Robert Browning is Pickwickian to all appearance. Yet he has devoted a whole article to it and tells us that he spent a valuable vacation over this. Probably he took the discovery seriously and his accredited biographer does not treat it as a piece of drollery.

His speeches on politics and legislation, whether in Parliament or outside, are no doubt creditable and we endorse most of what the biographer has said about them. They display his industry and vigour and somehow one feels that he was a man made more for fights than for watching as an umpire. By temper it would seem he should have been at the head of a foot-ball team or in the trenches. But he was destined to be a judge.

When all is said one feels no rancour against Lord Darling. He had no mission and most men do not possess one. He was insular in his sympathies, as most of us are. He had strong prejudices but otherwise he has a robust commonsense, industry and forcefulness. He was entitled to succeed in the world as he has done.

B. R. DAMLE.

SECRETS OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

LESSONS IN FINANCE. By JAMES ARTHUR DUPRE. (Meador Publishing Co., Boston.) 1929. 21 cm. 128 p. \$ 1.50.

THIS is a book written by a successful business man in Canada for young men in order to prepare them for a successful career; it contains practical maxims of the highest value based on an analysis of the elements of financial success and inculcates the great virtue of economy which is the life-blood of

prosperity and happiness. It should be in the hands of the Indian college students whose monthly expenses are bidding fair to run into three figures; it would teach them everything learnt by a self-made financier in his long career full of varied experiences, at the small cost of a dollar and half.

Mr. Dupre begins by pointing out the value of money and asks every young man never to spend money unwisely. Next he explains the various phases of economy and emphasizes the importance of making it agreeable to oneself early in life. His great motto is that the way to fortune is by way of saving "which is the source of the resources needed to keep up the family's welfare." Among causes of failure Mr. Dupre mentions irregularity, laziness, intemperance and unpreparedness both as to education and learning the virtue of economy. The Indian youth may note that smoking is regarded by the author as a cause of failure. The book contains valuable hints as to how to make investments.

In his remarks on sound business, the author deprecates the speculation in the stock-market and recommends insurance against accident and sickness and for the education of children as the soundest business. Economy he regards as the primary quality for successful finance. One important means conducive to financial success is to learn the art of buying so as to get the most for your money. He recommends a yearly inventory of our psychological and financial gains or losses which leads to the formation of good purposes, self-improvement and progress towards financial success. Mr. Dupre impresses the importance of preparing children for their life's work on all parents; he recommends that with the birth of each child at least 250 dollars should be invested to assure a sound education and to protect against unforeseen adversities. For young men his advice is to grasp every opportunity that presents itself to earn and to invest money so as to gain peace of mind which is found only in a healthy body and in prosperity. With hard work and steady economy, it is possible, in his opinion, to reach the heights of prosperity and to leave an endowment fund for the children you love and care for, at the high point of old age.

V. N. G.

SHORT NOTICES.

HEALTH: ITS RECOVERY AND MAINTENANCE. By ABDUL LATIF. (Rider, London.) 1929. 20cm. 253p. 7/6.

SPIRITUALISM is the basis of this book, and only those medicos, who have robust faith in this new science, can appreciate, in true perspective, the subject matter of this book. Abdul was a great physician and philosopher of Bagdad in the 13th century A. D. He was the wisest man of his age in the Muslim world, and wrote nearly 161 books on different subjects. He is still alive, the spiritualists believe, in the spheres above, and gives addresses, through a medium, to select audiences on topics of Health and Disease. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a great novelist, spiritualist and physician, versed in the modern medical science, believes that Abdul's addresses are full of sound knowledge, and deserve perusal by medical men. We have read some of these addresses but in spite of our belief in spiritualism, we are not very much impressed either by the quality or the manner of his discourses. It is certainly a marvel that a man of Bagdad, who had never studied English in his age, should now give lectures in English; but, granting spiritualism, such wonders are but a natural corollary of the hypothesis. And what we expect therefore is that Abdul should have given us some cures of such inveterate diseases as Tuberculosis,

Cancer, arthritis, etc. In the book, however, we do not come across any marvellous cures of such maladies. In fact the superhuman is not much above the human in this book so far as medical science is concerned.

Other matters such as continuity of life beyond the grave, soul force, faith cures, etc. have their bearing on the problem of health and the materialistic sciences have much to learn yet on these topics. Men like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who are both spiritualists and medical graduates, will do well if they throw some more light on such matters for the benefit of the public. Unless something beyond the ken of ordinary medical men is visible in such books, very few will be attracted by such spiritualistic discourses on health.

V. M. BHAT.

A QUAKER ADVENTURE, STORY OF NINE YEARS' RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION, By A. RUTH FRY. (Nisbet, London.) 1927. 23cm. 389 p. 5/-

"THIS book tells the story of an experiment of love and service carried through by a group of peace-lovers in the midst of the storm and wreckage of war and in the hardly less difficult world of the after-war years." How this experiment was done cannot be adequately dealt with in a short review like this. It is wonderful how they accomplished so much under the most difficult circumstances without any thought about the danger to their own lives.

When we hear of wars in distant countries we never realise its horrors. The late war affected the whole world in some way or other but what it meant to the people of Europe can never be fully realised. Even to those who suffered it is a dreadful dream—a nightmare. The Quakers went into every country where there was suffering and relieved it. This book gives an account of this relief work done in France, Servia, Russia, Austria, Poland and Germany.

In the preface Miss Fry apologises for introducing personal experiences. In a book like this, extracts from letters and personal experiences always add charm to the narration. Some of the letters are very touching and that the people who were benefited by their work realised their aim is shown in the following extract: "The loving kindness of the Friends in Germany after the war is a glowing page in the history of mankind, more beautiful than any that has been in the world before." This is true of the work in all countries mentioned above during and after the war. They worked among people of all classes, relieving suffering through medical aid, providing work, food and shelter to the millions, whether friends or foes.

The book contains a large number of photographs and two maps showing the important centres of work in Europe. It is a book worth reading so that by reading it people might realise the horrors of war and try to avoid it. There is no other fitting recommendation to the book which is as good as Professor Jones' words in his Epilogue. "This book tells of some quiet endeavours to promote these deeper forces of unity and good will and therefore it should have a welcome from those who want to see the skirts of darkness pushed back and the area of light widened."

A. M.

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1928. (NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, INC., NEW YORK.) 1929. 23 cm. 34p. 50 cents.

A little more than two years ago the National Industrial Conference Board issued a comprehensive

volume entitled "The cost of living in the United States, 1914-1927", reproducing all the facts in the cost of living which have been ascertained by the Board in its investigations, accompanied both with an account of the methods pursued in the collection and tabulation of the data, and also a discussion of the problems involved in the changes in the cost of living. The present *brochure* is a supplemental analysis presenting the results of the Board's studies for the year 1928. For the total cost of living the range of variation during the year was slight—opening with 163.1 and ending with 162.0; a minimum of 160.9 in July and a maximum of 163.4 in September; an average of 161.5 for the first half year and 162.2 for the second half year. (Of course, the base of comparison is 100 as at July, 1914.) It is known that the net changes in the aggregate index are necessarily smaller than the changes in the principal groups of expenditure, being the resultant of conflicting or compensating changes in the several elements which compose it, but even among the individual elements of living, during the year under review, there have not been wide monthly fluctuations:—under "food", the variation was over 7 points (151 to 158); under "housing", 6 points (160 to 166); under "fuel and light" 5 points (158 to 163); under "clothing" 4 points (170 to 174) and under "sundries" just one point above 171. The movements of these figures among these items are probably within the expected order, but the significance of these figures consists in the fact that "the level in 1928 is nearer the post-war minimum in 1922 than any other year in the post-war series." These results are the more valuable because in the preparation of its studies the National Industrial Conference Board avails itself of the experience and judgment of the business executives who compose its membership, and of recognised authorities in special fields, in addition to the scientific knowledge and equipment of its large Research Staff.

K. B. MADHAVA.

ZIONISM IN ENGLAND. ENGLISH ZIONIST FEDERATION, 1899-1929. By PAUL GOODMAN. (English Zionist Federation, London.) 1929. 25 cm. 73 p.

THIS is a pamphlet published on the 30th anniversary of the starting of the English Zionist Federation; and in a brief manner traces its rise as a revolutionary force under the impelling inspiration of Theodor Herzl's message and personality, till it has reached its present position of being in the van of the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine.

In its pages is given the general outline of the struggle of the Jews to maintain under the most uncompromising circumstances an ideal Nation. The author claims that neither political triumphs nor financial successes are the reasons for the progress of Zionism, but rather the inner springs of action, that has behind it the spiritual impulse. Though it meant the increase of Jewish literature for the widest interpretation of Judaism, yet its appeal has been not to mere intellectualism and to intellects but to the masses also.

Since it is a booklet, it treats very briefly the ideals of the movement. The important thing about it is the indomitable spirit of the Jews, and specially those of the Zionist Movement.

YESUDAS MARTYN, C. S. S.

THE FAMOUS CASES OF DR. THORNDYKE. THIRTY-SEVEN OF HIS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AS SET DOWN. By R. AUSTIN FREEMAN. (Hodder and Stoughton.) 1929. 20 cm. 1080p. 7/6.

A PRETTY longish book! The formidable bulk is not calculated to attract a casual reader. But once it is opened the reader's attention is held throughout by the astonishing originality of the author. The detective stories herein narrated are refreshingly free from the demand on one's credulity usually made by ordinary 'sleuth' tales. Ever since Sherlock Holmes' phenomenal success in fiction tales of crimes and their detection, such stories are being placed on the market in cartloads. Especially the ingenious method adopted in the first group of tales entitled 'Inverted Stories' marks a new development in detective stories. Making the reader a witness of the actual preparation and perpetration of the crime and then getting it unravelled by one who knows nothing while the reader knows everything undoubtedly focusses the interest "on the unexpected significance of trivial circumstances." The Sherlock Holmes stories with the pig-headed Watson become stale by the repetition of certain ways of detection; moreover, the methods of detection are crude and primitive. Dr. Thorndyke is no amateur scientist like his illustrious predecessor; his methods are scientific, precise and his conclusions irrefutable. He has not got the irritating school-master tendency to lecture to his colleague,—and along with them the readers, on his lack of perception and keen observation. Instead of asking from the reader a childlike faith in the abilities of his hero the author gives him the satisfaction of witnessing the achievements of scientific investigation and analytic intellect. Altogether a delightful book!

M. D. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- NATIONALITY WITHIN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.** By E. F. W. GEY VAN PITTIUS. (King.) 1930. 22cm. 238p. 10/-
- THE MODERN FAMILY.** By RUTH REED. (Knopf, London.) 1929. 22cm. 182p. 12/6.
- HANDBOOK OF THE STATE OF NORTH BORNEO, WITH A SUPPLEMENT.** (British North Borneo Co., London.) 1929. 21cm. 142p. 2/-
- OUR CHANGING CIVILIZATION.** By JOHN HERMANN RANDALL. (Allen and Unwin.) 1929. 21cm. 362p. 12/6.
- THE RECONSTRUCTION OF INDIA.** By EDWARD J. THOMPSON. (Faber and Faber.) 1930. 21cm. 320p. 10/6.
- POSSIBILITIES.** By GEZA SCHINAGEL. (Meador Publishing Co., Boston.) 1930. 20cm. 125p. \$2.00.
- MAN O'MAN.** By CLYDE C. CARTRIGHT. (Meador Publishing Co., Boston.) 1930. 20cm. 178p. \$2.00.
- THE DRIFT OF CIVILIZATION.** By CHARLES G. ABBOT AND OTHERS. (Allen & Unwin.) 1930. 20cm. 254p. 7/6.
- THE RENEWAL OF CULTURE.** By LARS RINGBOM. (Allen & Unwin.) 1929. 20cm. 222p. 7/6.
- CATHOLICISM: A RELIGION OF COMMONSENSE.** By P. J. GEARSON. (Burn, Oates.) 1930. 20cm. 215p. 3/6.
- NALA AND DAMAYANTI—A DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS.** By VASUDEVA. (Hogarh Press, Madras.) 1928. 19cm. 250p.
- AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN CITIZENSHIP AND CIVILIZATION.** Vols. 1 & 2. By SRIKRISHNA VENKATESH PUNTAMBEKAR. (Nand Kishore Brothers, Benares.) 1928. 19cm, pp. 353, 262. Rs. 3/8 & 3.