

Servant of India

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Office : SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, POONA.

VOL. XIX, No. 36. } POONA—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1936. { INDIAN SUBSN. Rs. 6.
FOREIGN 15s.

CONTENTS.

	Page
TOPICS OF THE WEEK	421
ARTICLES :—	
Company Law.—I.	425
World War in Spain.	426
No Return of Mandates !	428
REVIEWS :—	
Health and Human Progress. By Dr. K. C. Gharpure, M. S. (Bom.), F. R. C. S. (Edin.)	429
Indictment of Dictatorships. By Prof. M. V. Subrahmanyam, M. A., L. T.	430
Sterilisation. By Dr. R. A. Rairkar, M. B. B. S.	430
Rejuvenation. By Prof. R. D. Karve, M. A.	431
SHORT NOTICES.	432

Topics of the Week.

Ambernath Strike.

THE Bombay Legislative Council lived up to its reputation as a reactionary body by not allowing Mr. R. R. Bakhale leave to move an adjournment of the House to discuss the various orders issued by the local officials on the workers on strike at the Western India Match Factory, Ambernath, and on their leaders. The terms of the motion clearly showed that Mr. Bakhale did not want to discuss the merits of the strike. What he wanted to impress upon the Council and the public was, so far as could be gathered by the motion itself, that the orders made the consideration of the question of the settlement of the strike impossible and that, therefore, the conduct of the local officials went against the policy announced by Government two years ago. In replying to the debate on Mr. Bakhale's cut motion on the Labour Office, His Excellency Sir Robert Bell, who was then the Home Member, had affirmed on the floor of the House that the policy of Government in industrial disputes was to keep the ring clear for both the parties to negotiate. We are afraid this policy is given the go-bye by the indiscreet action of the local officials at Ambernath.

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THE strike at Ambernath has been going on for over six weeks. The strikers have been perfectly peaceful and the local conditions have been normal. No occasion has so far arisen to prohibit the meetings of the strikers and their demonstrations or to extern their leaders or to demand from them security for peaceful behaviour. But this is exactly what the orders in question have done, with the result that even if the strikers want to call off the strike, they cannot do so because they cannot meet together ! The

employers refused to have anything to do with the workers' union, which is a highly organised body. Nor would they accept the intervention of a man of the status of Mr. N. M. Joshi who requested them, in the second week after the strike began, to grant him an interview with a view to finding out a *via media* for the termination of the dispute. Indeed they went the length of being discourteous to Mr. Joshi by not even acknowledging his letter. Under these circumstances it was the duty of Government to offer their good offices and instruct the Labour Officer to mediate. Instead, their subordinate officials have bound the workers hand and foot by the issue of several unnecessary and unjustifiable orders. A strike cannot be settled by individuals; it requires collective deliberation and decision. Even this Government would not allow the workers to do. What do they then expect the workers to do? A complete surrender? For that also, a meeting is necessary but is disallowed! No conciliation, no mediation, no consideration of the dispute by the workers; but only an abject surrender to the employers by individual workers—is this what Government want? If so, we have no hesitation in saying that the sooner this Government goes—and along with it, the present Council—the better for the people.

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The Famine Situation.

THE session of the Bombay Legislative Council which commenced at Poona on Monday is being held under the cloud of famine conditions in the presidency. The rainfall has been seriously deficient everywhere and the kharif crop has been practically ruined. In Ahmednagar the scarcity of drinking water and fodder for cattle is seriously felt. It is a source of relief to note that the Government are actively in touch with the famine situation, with the result that relief measures have been already initiated in some cases. There is, however, wide-spread dissatisfaction at the inadequacy of such measures. This feeling of dissatisfaction found expression in the debate on the adjournment motion brought before the Council on Tuesday. That even the Bombay Legislative Council, which is a notoriously unprogressive body, should have carried the motion against the Government is a measure of the depth of such dissatisfaction. With the appearance of rain in the drought areas during the last two or three days, the prospect is no doubt less gloomy than it was last week. But let not the Government for that reason relax their efforts to make themselves useful to the people affected by the drought. In this connection it is comforting to note that private charity for the relief of the affected areas is being organised. Bombay City has as usual given the lead in this matter and a meeting convened by the Mayor has expressed the readiness of the Bombay public to do everything possible to relieve distress due to famine.

Similar action is also reported from other parts of the presidency as well.

Disbandment of the Tariff Board.

AN adjournment motion, which was in the end withdrawn, was brought forward in the Assembly by the Congress party in order to call attention to the disbandment of the Tariff Board. This action on the Government's part had given rise to the fear that the policy of discriminating protection to which they stood committed so far was abandoned. The speech of the Government spokesman shows that the fear has no basis in fact. He took the occasion to assure all concerned that the Government fully stood by the policy of discriminating protection which they would do their best to carry into effect.

THE Tariff Board, it was made clear, was disbanded not because of any change in the Government's policy as was alleged in some quarters but because it had no work. Its business, as everybody knows, is to inquire into applications for protection. All such applications received by the Government had been referred to and had been reported on by it. The Board was thus left absolutely workless. Where then was the point in continuing it?

ITS disappearance does not, however, mean, as was officially explained, that it goes out of existence for all time. It would be wrong to think so. It follows as a corollary that its revival is conditional upon the Government receiving requests for protection from eligible industries. When these are received the Board would come back to life. If the object of the Congress party in bringing forward the motion was only to secure a reiteration of the Government's adherence to protection it has been fulfilled, and the debate must be said to have amply served its purpose.

The Inams Bill.

THE Madras Legislative Council passed last week the Inams Bill which confers occupancy rights on inam tenants, giving compensation to the inamdars who have proved their title to the full ownership of the land in question. It will be remembered that the Council passed last year a bill which enabled the tenants of inamdars to acquire occupancy rights without paying any compensation to the inamdars. But at that time inamdars complained to the Governor-General that the bill was expropriatory in character, and Lord Willingdon accepted this complaint as just and refused his assent to the bill. While agreeing with the main object of the bill, viz. that of conferring rights of occupancy on inamdars' tenants, he insisted that the inamdars should not be deprived of any rights which they were in a position to establish without equitable compensation being paid to them.

ACCORDINGLY, the new Bill now enacted provides for compensation, and the discussion in the Council turned upon whether the compensation offered was adequate or not. The Select Committee's report did not propose any definite amount but put an upper limit of two and a half year's rent upon the compensation to be paid. The Bill as passed has fixed the compensation at one year's rent. This amendment was moved by Mr. C. R. Reddy, and in moving it he, as a Congressman, invoked the resolution of the Karachi Congress in its support. Security of tenure and the lowering of the burden on the tenantry were, he said, two of the fundamental principles advocated

by this resolution and these rights would be secured only if the compensation were fixed at this low figure.

TO this amendment moved by Mr. Reddy there was fierce opposition in the Council. The opposing members urged that compensation be given on the basis of the market value of land as under the Land Acquisition Act, but the Government would not accept this basis. The Revenue Member, Sir Charles Souter, frankly stated that in his opinion no compensation whatever need be given, but as the Governor-General had made payment of compensation a pre-condition of an enactment conferring occupancy rights on the tenants of inamdars, some compensation has to be given, and it must be fixed on a scale which would be well within the means of the tenants. The principle underlying the section dealing with compensation is thus not the loss suffered by the inamdar but the ability of his tenant to acquire occupancy right. It was admitted by the supporters of the Bill that the compensation offered was purely nominal, but they contended that nothing more was required by the circumstances of the case.

IT seems almost certain that the inamdars will go up once again to the Governor and the Governor-General requesting them to withhold their assent from the Bill, on the ground that compensation is wholly inadequate (the *Hindu* calls it "faricically negligible") and that the whole measure is thus almost as expropriatory as the earlier one vetoed by Lord Willingdon, which did not give any compensation. If this happens, it is difficult to see how on a strictly legalistic view of the matter assent can be given. The supporters of the Bill can urge in its defence only grounds of social policy, but if this defence is to be ruled out and if no element of expropriation is to be allowed it seems certain that Lord Linlithgow will have to veto this Bill too. On this question a vigorous agitation may be expected on the part of inamdars.

An Adjournment Motion and its Contretemps.

BY means of an adjournment motion the Congress party wanted last week to censure the Government for their action, taken behind the back of the Assembly and in defiance of a former promise to the contrary, in reducing the duty on British textile imports by five per cent., as suggested by the Special Tariff Board. We have no doubt that in this matter the Congress party would have received cordial co-operation from all progressive elements in the Assembly, as a result of which the passage of the motion was practically assured. To avoid this (to them) disagreeable contingency, the subterfuge of talking out the motion was resorted to by the Government.

THAT this and nothing else was their object is obvious. Although six speeches had been delivered against the motion including one by the Commerce Member who had with his usual ability explained the official point of view as against four in support of it, the Finance Member insisted upon speaking when only three minutes remained before the conclusion of the time allotted under the rules for the discussion of adjournment motions. His unfinished speech thus occupied the time which the Congress party banked on utilising for the counting of votes. A closure was indeed demanded, but the President refused to accept it because he wanted to give Sir James Grigg a chance to speak, as the Finance Department was concerned with the subject matter of the debate. This is how the Congress was baulked of an opportu-

nity to express the country's verdict on action of Government which has drawn on them universal condemnation.

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THE conduct of the Government on this occasion was greatly resented by the Congress. But what roused the ire of the Congressmen even more was the fact that the President should, by playing into the hands of the Government, have effectively shut out the expression of the national voice on such an important matter. As a mark of their strong disapproval of the conduct of the Government and also of the President, the Congress members had recourse to a walk-out.

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THE walk-out led the President to justify his conduct in the course of an explanatory statement, which elicited from the Leader of the Opposition even a lengthier reply. It appears from this that the Congress party's principal complaint against the President was that he should have been instrumental in the debate ending inconclusively. One can understand his fair-mindedness in wishing to give the Government every facility to place their side of the case before the Assembly. But he might have insisted that Government members intending to participate in the debate did so early enough in the proceedings and in this case particularly it was not as if the Government view went absolutely unrepresented.

Justification of Germany.

IN view of Mr. Lloyd George's impending visit to Herr Hitler, his justification in the House of Commons on 27th July of Germany's rearmament and military occupation of the Rhineland is noteworthy. He said:

* There is the accomplished fact (of Germany's rearmament), and it is an accomplished fact upon the basis of something in which there is a great deal of justification for the action of Germany. I am glad that they have treated even the invasion of the Rhineland, even its fortification, as something which you must accept for the moment. You cannot alter it...

The moment the Russo-French Pact was signed, no one responsible for the security of Germany could leave its most important industrial province without defence of any sort or kind when—and here is a thing which is never dwelt upon—France had built the most gigantic fortifications ever seen in any land, where, almost 100 feet underground, you could keep an army of over 100,000 and where you have guns that can fire straight into Germany. Yet the Germans are supposed to remain without even a garrison, without a trench. I am going to say here that if Herr Hitler had not taken some action with regard to that—whether it is a wise action or not I am not going to argue and whether he could have set it right by negotiation or not I do not know, but I am a little doubtful, having regard to the past—but if Herr Hitler had allowed that to go without protecting his country he would have been a traitor to the Fatherland.... The story is not all on one side. I am very glad that the Government have decided practically, I will not say to acknowledge and I will not say to accept—you cannot expect them to do that—but at any rate to say: "Let us begin afresh, and see whether we cannot bring this terrible chapter of misery and increasing terror for the world to an end."

Ticketless Travel.

PUBLIC opinion will once again be given an opportunity to express itself on the official Bill for

checking the evil of ticketless travel. This is the decision of the Assembly on the Bill. Though the Assembly has chosen for the moment to take up a non-committal attitude towards the measure, it may be taken for granted that its mind is made up against it. The Bill had been before the country for the last six months during which period public opinion had been sufficiently canvassed on it. In these circumstances it is very doubtful if the public discussion that will hereafter ensue on it till the end of the year will throw up any fresh point of view. Even so, if the Assembly has chosen to give some more time to public opinion to study and digest the measure, one cannot be overshooting the mark in interpreting the decision as a desire on the part of the Assembly to postpone the performance of the unpleasant task of the final rejection of the Bill as long as possible.

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THE discussions that have so far taken place make one thing clear. It is that serious doubts are widely entertained as to the efficacy of the Bill for the purpose for which it is intended. Its purpose, as is well-known, is mainly financial; for the Bill forms part of a series of attempts on the part of the Government to improve Railway finances. This was made clear in the budget speech of the Railway Member who foreshadowed legislation to deal with ticketless travel. The subsequent introduction of the Bill was in fulfilment of that promise. The loss to railways on account of passengers travelling without payment has been estimated at Rs. 50 lakhs a year. Will the enforcement of the measure bring that amount into the coffers of the railways? Opinion on this point is sharply divided.

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PEOPLE travelling without tickets might roughly be placed in two categories: (1) bona-fide passengers compelled for want of time or for any other equally good reason to entrain without a ticket but ready to pay the railway dues, and (2) those who intend to defraud the railways. The class of bona-fide passengers who travel without tickets is a fairly big one, their number in 1935 being 19½ lakhs out of a total of 28¾ lakhs of persons found to be travelling without tickets. There is nothing unfair in the demand that such a large class should enjoy reasonable protection from harassment under the law. But the provision transferring the onus from the prosecutor to the accused would, it is feared, expose even the bona-fide passenger to needless hardship and humiliation.

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TICKETLESS travellers of the male-fide variety fall into two classes: (1) those who can afford to pay but will not and (2) those who simply cannot afford, as, e. g., beggars, fakirs, etc. While nobody with any sense of decency will plead for any mercy being shown to wilful defrauders, there is everything to be said for the really poor and the indigent travellers being leniently treated. There is no question here of any encouragement being lent to the evil of ticketless travel. It is a question of preventing avoidable hardship to a section of the population which deserves consideration on grounds of poverty. Luckily for us, their number, comparatively speaking, is not very large, it being in the neighbourhood of 3½ lakhs last year. It will thus be seen that the only direction in which any improvement of railway revenues can be looked for is the wilful defrauders who numbered 50,000 or thereabouts in 1935.

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ONE of the measures suggested for checking ticketless travel was the proper fencing of railway

stations so that nobody not in possession of a ticket could go to the platform. The suggestion was considered impracticable in view of the large outlay of about Rs. three crores required for its effectuation. But even supposing it were financially practicable, one cannot be certain that it will go a considerable way in stopping ticketless travel. For, as everybody knowing anything of railway travel knows, there are, even under a system of strict checking of tickets, many subterfuges open to a dishonest person to evade payment. But if the suggestion could by any chance be made to fulfil the expectations formed of it it need not be put aside because the required outlay would not be forthcoming. For if a return of Rs. 50 lakhs on a capital outlay of Rs. three crores or 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. were a reasonable certainty, we have little doubt that enough finance by way of a public loan would be readily made available to the Government by the investing public. The snag, however, is that the return must be reasonably sure, which apparently it is not.

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Indian Grievances in Kenya.

WHEN the marketing legislation was on the legislative anvil in Kenya our readers will remember that great pressure was exerted on the Government by our countrymen with a view to getting them to agree to look upon all existing trade centres as marketing places as defined therein. This was for the purpose of preventing shopkeepers who had established themselves in particular localities for a long time from being dislodged. Luckily the Indian agitation had the desired effect and the Bill was accordingly amended. According to Mr. D. D. Puri who presided over the fourth session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce of Eastern Africa, however, the Kenya authorities are violating this provision by refusing to regard mills where purchases of grain were hitherto taking place on a large scale as marketing places for the purposes of this law. The matter is under representation to the Government and Mr. Puri was hopeful that it might soon be set right. So far so good.

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BUT Mr. Puri had another complaint to make against the Kenya Government. They seem to have under contemplation a move to bring into existence new marketing places in native reserves which would be open only to natives and where no non-native would be free to trade. It need not be stated that these new markets would be in addition to trading centres open both to natives and non-natives. It is Mr. Puri's fear that if the move were to become a reality, it would have a very harmful effect on Indian trade and commerce, and that these parallel markets would eventually result in completely ruining Indian trade.

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MR. PURI also voiced another grievance of the Indian community. He contends that the practical effect of the operation of the Kenya White Paper of 1923 has been to exclude Indians from agriculture, for whatever land of agricultural value there was in Kenya was reserved either for Europeans or for natives. Indians had, comparatively speaking, only a very small part of land assigned to them for agricultural purposes. If for want of sufficient land they decide to disinterest themselves in farming and turn their attention to industries, obstacles are placed in the way of their acquisition of land even for industrial purposes. We hope the hardships referred to by Mr. Puri will be carefully gone into by the authorities concerned.

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Indians in Ceylon.

IT is observed from the report of the Agent to the Government of India in Ceylon that the number of Indian labourers who migrated to Ceylon last year was about 43,000 and almost an equal number returned to this country. The migrations are stated to be less than normal and the deficiency is explained by the fact that the supply of labour in 1934 was in excess of the demand, the surplus being absorbed in 1935. The general financial stringency and the restriction of crops also helped to restrict the demand for labour.

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LAST year witnessed the promulgation of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance passed in 1934 and of the Trade Unions Ordinance enacted in 1933. Indian labour being still unorganised, the Trade Unions Ordinance did not affect it. Not so, however, the other measure. The total number of accidents among Indian labourers resulting in temporary disablements during 1935 was 546. In all these cases, the report states, compensation was paid by the employer direct to the labourers, which prevents the Agent knowing the exact amount paid in each case. Does this mean that claims for compensation are not gone into by the Compensation Commissioner but that the employer is free in each case to come to an understanding directly with the labourer? If so, it is difficult to believe that the interests of the labourer will always receive the sympathetic consideration that they deserve. It is, therefore, necessary that means should be found to keep the Agent who acts as the Protector of Indian labour in close touch with all compensation proceedings. No cases of permanent disablement were reported to the Commissioner, from which it would be unsafe to infer that none occurred; and there were seven fatal accidents.

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THE number of irregularities noticed by the Agent was smaller during 1935 than during the previous year. One cannot derive much solace from this statement, for the labour supply being smaller, it is difficult to judge how far the reduction in the number of irregularities is related to the reduced number of migrations and how far it is to be relied upon as an index of the growing tendency among employers not to depart from the straight path. Several complaints about the separation of families reached the Agent. We hope he was in a position to secure redress in all cases. It is comforting to note that steps are under way to make such attempts to separate families penal under the Labour Code as in Malaya. There were twelve cases in which employers were prosecuted for offences against the Labour laws.

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Recommendation or Condemnation ?

THAT the activities of the Clove Growers' Association in Zanzibar have resulted in virtually killing the clove trade by losing important markets for Zanzibar can hardly admit of doubt. But to judge from the Zanzibar papers, interested parties are sedulously engaged in creating a contrary impression, and public opinion is asked to believe that, thanks to the work of the Association, the Zanzibar clove which was formerly displaced from the U. S. A. market is reinstated there. It is not known on what material such a statement is based. But a look at the figures of exports of cloves to different countries is enough to prove its utter hollowness. The clove exports to U. S. A. in 1931 amounted to 29,000 cwts. but decreased by 4,000 in 1932. The figure for 1933 was 26,000 cwts. and for 1934, the year in which the Association.

came to birth, 33,000 cwts. If, as alleged, the work of the Association had recaptured the American market for Zanzibar, the exports to U. S. A. should have gone up. As a matter of fact, however, they show a fearful drop of over 50 per cent.—from 33,000 cwts. in

1934 to 16,000 cwts. in 1935. Unless the meaning of words is to be changed, these figures, instead of being a recommendation in favour of the Association's work as claimed in some quarters, constitute its severest condemnation.

COMPANY LAW.—I.

THERE has been for a long time past a demand from the various Chambers of Commerce and other associations, prominent among whom has been the Bombay Shareholders Association, for a thoroughgoing revision of the Company Act. This issue has been also raised by bodies like the Tariff Board and the Central Banking Enquiry Committee. Government has been slow in moving in the matter, but once the question was taken in hand the present Law Member caused rapid progress to be made with it. The first step in the preparation of the Bill was an enquiry conducted by a special officer, Mr. Sen. The suggestions of this officer were submitted to a conference of a few representatives of prominent business interests, and the bill presented to the Assembly last April was largely modelled on the conclusions reached by this conference. In the April session the bill was referred to a select committee and was also circulated to the public. The bill has naturally been closely studied by all the important trade associations in the country, and there is available to the members of the Assembly a large mass of detailed comment. The select committee has also completed its deliberations and presented a report, which will form the basis of the discussions of the second reading which begins this week.

The ground covered by the amending bill is of course vast and a large number of topics is embraced within it. The most important as well as the most contentious issue raised is that of the regulation of the Managing Agency system. It has curiously enough been taken for granted by all sides that the managing agent is indispensable. This is an assumption with which we find it hard to agree. The managing agency system originated in the East of India among the early enterprises of British capitalists. Its origin was due chiefly to the fact that the investors in these concerns were all thousands of miles away and had necessarily to find, in those days of difficult communications, some local agency whom they could trust completely. The number of British businessmen in India was also in those days too small to furnish the requisite number of directors for the ordinary system of company management. Even today there is a large amount of British capital in the jute, tea and coal companies and the difficulty of finding British directors would still be considerable. When Indian enterprise began on the West of India it was natural that it should adopt the structure evolved on the other side of the country. But there was nothing in the economic conditions in Bombay which would have then made it more difficult to adopt the usual type of company management than in any other country at a similar stage of development. It is necessary to

cast only a glance at the history of the eighteen sixties in Bombay to realise how every type of speculator, investor and company promoter was available in abundance. Once, however, the managing agency system had been adopted it was difficult, nay impossible, for any other system to take its place. The chief characteristic of this system is the enormous possibilities of exploitation that it puts in the hands of the original promoters; and it would be too much to expect that the body of financiers and promoters who had become accustomed to the privileges and opportunities of the managing agency system would of their own accord substitute for it a system in which they forwent these advantages. This natural perpetuation of the agency system has meant that the whole subsequent development of industry has been moulded to fit this pattern. Even that sympathetic student of the managing agents, Mr. Lokanathan, admits, "Owing to the managing agency system of industrial finance, no mill company has been able to develop its own system of industrial finance independently of the managing agents."

So much for the origin and the continuation of the system. The present position is that the system has rightly fallen into disrepute, especially in Western India. The abuses to which it has been liable have been so great and the ordinary shareholder so helpless that even on the admission of businessmen the system acts today as a definite hindrance in the way of attracting outside capital to joint-stock enterprises. Whereas it was possible some years ago to claim that the managing agent was essential for obtaining adequate finance, today in Bombay at least there is a definite tendency on the part of bankers to rely on the concrete assets of the company. The evidence led before the Banking Enquiry Committee showed to what a small extent were the Bombay companies financed by their managing agents. The managing agents are essentially a financing agency and if they no longer serve as such or are no longer necessary in that behalf, the entire case for their continued existence falls to the ground. On the other hand there are a number of ways in which the managing agents can be shown to exert a harmful influence. Managing agency has meant in India the predominance of the financier even to a greater extent than has been common in other countries. This explains to a considerable extent the technical backwardness of the greater portion of Indian industry. The system has also bred nepotism and introduced the hereditary principle in industrial management, the evil effects of which were acutely evident in the Bombay industry during the post-war period. Bearing all this in mind, it is strange to observe that even the leader of the Congress party in the Assembly

joined in singing the praises of the managing agent and agreeing to his indispensability.

The existing law takes no cognisance of the peculiar position of the managing agent in the Indian industrial structure. The amending bill definitely attempts to regulate his position. This it does in a variety of ways. To begin with there is the regulation of the period during which a managing agent may hold his office. It has been pointed out that in a number of cases the managing agent under existing agreements is practically never removable. The bill provided for a maximum of twenty years for all future managing agency agreements and this provision has survived the select committee stage even though a number of Indian Chambers of Commerce were in favour of a 25 or 30 year period. With regard to existing agreements Mr. Sen had recommended that all of these should be open to review one year after the new law comes into operation. The Government thought this suggestion too drastic and adopted instead a provision that all agreements entered into before the passing of this legislation would come to an end at the end of twenty years from now. This was of course a novel sort of provision, though absolutely necessary if any regulation of existing agreements was to be at all contemplated. As may be expected, considerable opposition was met with by this provision from managing agency interests. The European block from Calcutta seems most extreme in its position. It took up an essentially laissez faire attitude and talked of the sanctity of all contracts. It will most probably oppose wholesale all legislation affecting existing agreements. The Indian interests from Calcutta also took a similar view. It was on the other hand gratifying to find the bulk of Bombay Indian opinion reconciling itself to this provision. The Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay, positively welcomed it and it was not opposed by the Bombay Mill-owners. It was the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, however, which raised a new issue, that of compensation. It seems to have been taken for granted by the framers of the original bill that if a 20 year period was sufficient for future agency agreements, then if the existing agents were given a 20 year life in addition to what they had already enjoyed no claim to compensation should arise. Evidently, however, the vested interests have proved strong and the compensation clause finds a place in the bill as it emerges from the select committee. But does not the inser-

tion of this clause make the original provision practically worthless? For when at the end of 20 years from now any company seeks to change its system of management or revise its agreement with its managers it will have to incur initially the cost of compensation. And this will presumably be the more heavy as the terms of the existing agreements are the more onerous. A good deal may no doubt depend on the conditions, financial and other, then obtaining and also on the view taken by the courts regarding the nature of the compensation; but even so it is clear that the select committee has made the task of the companies which would have liked to adopt a new system of management twenty years hence vastly more difficult than it would otherwise have been. It is instructive to note that the *Statesman* thinks that the select committee amendments reduce the original provision to absurdity.

The provisions regarding managing agents have worsened all along the line in passing through the select committee. In the original bill the remuneration that could be paid to managing agents under future agreements was strictly regulated to be a percentage of the net profits. The select committee has added a proviso that this shall not apply to the appointment of the company's first managing agents made before the issue of the prospectus. It is not clear why this change was found necessary. And in view of the fact that the first managing agents of a company are usually its promoters, in the large majority of new agreements the new profit percentage provision is likely to prove inoperative. In the same way the select committee takes away from the company the right, proposed to be conferred by the original bill, of removing an agent for fraud or breach of trust proved in a competent court. The select committee confines the possibility of such removal only to cases of offences in relation to the company of a criminal non-bailable character. So that a company which has full knowledge of its managing agent being a cheat must not remove him from control until he perpetrates a really serious fraud on itself! There is one respect, however, in which the select committee has improved on the original, and this is by completely generalising the provision regarding the prohibition of loans to managing agents. It has also made the definition of net profits stricter than was the case in the draft bill.

WORLD WAR IN SPAIN.

IN the civil war that is being waged in Spain with unspeakable savagery the future of that country is hanging in the balance; and along with the future of Spain the future of Europe too, and perhaps the future of western democracy as a whole. The conflict in Spain is not a conflict between two rival factions ambitious of power, but between two different social systems; and just because it is so it has aroused a great deal of interest in neighbouring countries which support either of the two

systems and may therefore lead to grave international complications. The interest which the fascist countries, Italy and Germany, take in the rebellion organised by the fascist forces of Spain is of a very realistic nature. It is now proved to the hilt that they have given and are still giving valuable military and other aid to the insurgents, who are seeking to destroy the constitutional government of Spain. In fact, so far as Mussolini is concerned, such an eminent publicist as Mr. Noel-Baker has said in the

News Chronicle, that he "was General Franco's accomplice not only after the rising of July 20 but before that rising had occurred;" in other words, he helped in bringing about the fascist militarist rebellion. The active help given by Italy and Germany after the outbreak is not disputed. "On July 30 it became known that five Italian military aeroplanes had flown across Algerian territory on their way to Spanish Morocco. (These planes were detailed on July 18, two days before the rebellion started.) Three of them made forced landings in French territory. An inquiry was instituted by the French authorities and a report was issued on August 5. This established the fact that the machines were destined for the insurgent base at Melilla, were carrying machine guns and ammunition, and were equipped with bomb-dropping gear. The interrogation of their pilots revealed that they had as recently as July 20 formed part of three squadrons of the Italian Regular Air Force; the national markings on the machines had been freshly painted over. Some of the pilots also were reported to have admitted that they had been recruited for their mission three days before the outbreak of the Spanish revolt." (*The Bulletin of International News*.) They had received instructions to join General Franco's rebel forces and to report themselves as members of the Spanish Foreign Legion. That Germany gave similar help is also above dispute. News has been published of the arrival of 25 German planes in Seville, and it is known that the pilots of these planes were drawn from the German army. These are battle planes, and it is also beyond doubt that just as Italian help was arranged some time before the rebellion began, so also German help was arranged before the rebellion began. This kind of help is being continuously given by the fascist countries. Only two days ago news came that the Spanish Government had informed France of the delivery of 24 Italian aeroplanes to the rebels and the message further added that it was undeniable that arms were still being supplied to the insurgents through Portugal.

The help that the loyalist elements received from France, Britain and Russia was, however, on a very much lower scale. As a matter of fact the Governments of all these countries, though interested in preserving constitutional democracy and in counteracting fascism, prohibited the export of arms and ammunition to either of the warring parties, and the help that was actually given came from private persons, and that too was exceedingly meagre. In Russia the workers collected subscriptions on behalf of the anti-fascist forces in Spain, but later the Soviet Government by order stopped these subscriptions. In England, however, considerable sums were sent from the City to the rebels as "insurance against communism." In law the help given to a Government fighting its internal enemies is perfectly legitimate; but any help given to the rebels is wholly without justification. Britain, France and Russia could have helped the Madrid Government without incurring any blame, and such help, if it were promptly forthcoming, would have led to decisive victory over the rebel forces; but

these countries are holding back. At the same time Italy and Germany are giving huge military assistance to the rebels, assistance which they could give only in flagrant violation of international law. It is obvious that both Britain and France have a direct interest in defeating the fascist coalition of Italy, Germany and the Spanish rebels. For definite economic and military advantages have been promised by the rebels to Italy and Germany if the rebellion succeeds, and the British and French position will be considerably weakened if these advantages materialise. Italy and Germany will be allowed to use Ceuta (opposite Gibraltar), the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands as naval bases and to construct new fortifications there. If they succeed in winning these bases on the Atlantic for their sea planes and submarines, they will command the gateway of the Mediterranean, Britain's hold over the Straits would be loosened, and the sea route down the west coast of Africa would be in danger. Similarly France would be unable to transport African troops from her African dominions. From this it is clear that it is greatly to the advantage of Britain and France to see that the fascist conspiracy does not succeed, but, in spite of this patent fact, France as well as Britain is not only most unwilling to give aid and comfort to the Government constituted by law in Spain, but is indirectly helping the cause of the insurgents by giving Italy and Germany free rein to do what they like.

The non-fascist countries are trying to evolve a non-interference pact in Spanish affairs. This pact does not merely involve abstention from official assistance, but abstention from non-official assistance also. The Governments of the respective countries must undertake under the pact not only themselves not to supply arms, munitions and war materials to Spain, but also to prevent private traders from supplying them. Similarly they have to undertake to prohibit the export of civil aircraft too, for the reason that civil aeroplanes can easily be used for military purposes. Great Britain accordingly has revoked all licences granted so far for the supply of arms and munitions of war and has decided not to grant such licences in future. She has also effectively dissuaded her nationals from exporting civil aircraft to Spain. France and Russia have done likewise; in these countries the armaments industries are nationalised. While they are thus following a rigidly abstentionist policy, Italy and Germany are supplying arms to the rebels. They do not refuse pointblank to join the non-intervention agreement, but raise many objections obviously with the object of gaining time. The non-intervention agreement, even if it were comprehensive and would effectively stop Italian and German aid to the rebel forces, would be unjust and illegal. By bringing about such a pact, the powers would show, as the *Manchester Guardian* says, that "they put either side (in the Spanish conflict) on the same footing, though the two sides represent the legal and the illegal, the right and the wrong, freedom and its negation, the prospect of ultimate peace and the danger of early war." Those who would be parties to such an agreement would

"break international law and do injustice to the Spanish Government," and would show greater concern for political expediency than for right. It can only be "accepted out of fear." But, while the agreement is being negotiated, military aid is being rushed to the rebels by the fascist countries, and the result is that Britain, France and Russia are giving "indirect, if negative, assistance to the rebels." "There is no precedent in international usage," says the *Guardian*, "for the deliberate handicapping of a recognised, constitutional, and freely elected Government in its efforts to maintain its existence", such as is necessarily involved in the placing of a ban on the export of arms and munitions by private citizens.

An active intervention policy would therefore have been thoroughly justified, and if it is not followed it is only from cowardice. Such a policy, it is said, would have brought on a general conflagration. Possibly, but it remains yet to be seen whether the policy that is now attempted of drawing a ring round Spain so as to let both the freely elected Government and its enemies butcher each other without any restraint will prevent such a conflagration. Italy and Germany have shown that they will not observe such a compact faithfully, and if on account of their help the rebel forces come out victorious a struggle between

the fascist and the non-fascist countries cannot long be avoided. And it is certain that the non-intervention pact, even if agreed to by Italy and Germany, is not going to be carried out by them in letter and in spirit. For the present, the progressive minds in Britain and France merely demand that Italy and Germany should not be allowed to spin out negotiations as they are doing, and that if they will not join the pact without reserve the non-fascist countries should openly help the Spanish Government as the fascist countries are almost openly helping the rebels in Spain. It is remarkable that the *News Chronicle*, a Liberal paper is calling, like the *Daily Herald*, for active intervention on the side of the Madrid Government. It is true that if the loyalist forces of Spain obtain a victory, the moderate elements which were guided by Azana will at first be in a minority and the radical elements will get the upper hand, but Spain is much too individualistic to give much chance for communist rule, which is the obsession of most of those who would like to see the rebels defeated. The *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent reports that "even the extreme Left shows an inclination to accept a democratic programme of national reconstruction" after the civil war is over. The issue at stake in Spain is thus truly between fascism and democracy.

NO RETURN OF MANDATES!

THE die-hards in Great Britain are greatly exercised about a statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 6th April that while a demand for the cession of any British Colony or Protectorate could not possibly be entertained for a moment, there was a clear distinction between Colonies and Protectorates on the one hand and Mandated Territories on the other. Which implied that whereas the question of the surrender of the former was not even discussable, the terms and conditions under which the cession of the latter might be made were open to discussion and therefore the cession of the Mandated Territories in certain circumstances was possible. Why should the Mandates, the die-hard politicians ask, be treated differently from the Colonies? Is it because their status is different from that of the Colonies acquired by us by right of conquest? Is it thought that if the League of Nations, under whose supervision the Mandates are administered, orders the Mandates to be transferred to other mandatories or returned to the ex-enemy countries from which they were taken, we should be required to do so? If this be the reason for the caution exercised by the British Government in making public statements on this subject, these politicians say, the caution is unnecessary. For the League has no jurisdiction in the matter either of transfer or revocation of the Mandates. It was not the League which conferred Mandates on us or on other mandatories, and what it did not give it cannot take back or make over to others. "Under the Peace Treaties," said Mr. Amery in the House of Commons on 31st July, "Germany surrendered those territories outright to

the Allied and Associated Powers; not to the League of Nations. The Allied and Associated Powers distributed those territories among themselves. The League had nothing to say to that allocation. They framed the Mandates themselves and then submitted them to the League for the blessing of the League. There is nothing in the Mandate which gives any member of the League, and still less any non-member of the League, any say in the territorial status of the mandated territories. We are there by our indefeasible right and for all time."

That the Mandates are, in point of their permanent retentions by the mandatory powers, as good as conquered countries is by no means a novel view among politicians of the extreme Right wing. The British Empire might concede self-government to any of its Colonies, and so it might do to any of its Mandates, in which case the Mandate will terminate, but no question, according to them, of a forcible transfer or revocation of the Mandate can ever arise. Mr. Amery said that he had himself, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressed that view on behalf of the Government more than once. Other Ministers had done the same. Lord Swinton two years ago said that the then Government had no intention of surrendering their trust, and added with confidence that no Government in the future would ever change its mind. In May, 1935, Sir John Simon as Foreign Secretary informed the House of Commons that he had made it clear to Herr Hitler that the transfer of Mandates was not a discussable question. Why then, the Tories ask, should the Government now speak as if the question was open to negotiation, and as if the

transfer could be contemplated? Of course no one believes that, whatever language the Government might adopt, it would in any conceivable circumstances think of giving up any of the Mandates held by it either to Germany or to any other country. The die-hards are quite unnecessarily agitated about it. The Government would stick to the Mandates, at any rate to B and C Mandates, as if they formed part of their national territories, and not the British Government merely but the Governments of the Dominions as well, which have received Mandates. Mr. Pirow, Defence Minister of the Union of South Africa, recently made a statement about the impossibility of surrendering either South West Africa or Tanganyika (though Tanganyika is not mandated to the Union). On 13th March Senator Pearce, speaking for the Australian Government, similarly declared that the surrender of Australian mandated territory was unthinkable. Nor is France going to surrender the Cameroons and Togoland, or Belgium and Portugal their Mandates.

We all know this of course, but the arguments urged by the die-hards on this subject are very entertaining. How will it profit Germany, they ask, if the mandated countries are returned to her? Does Germany think that imperial domains will help her, that they will relieve her present "economic suffocation?" A sad delusion! Neither are imperialist countries necessarily prosperous, nor non-imperialist countries necessarily in economic trouble. Mr. Amery said in the debate above referred to:

After all, there are countries in Europe which are prosperous, although they have no Colonial Empire. Sweden, which has no Colonial Empire, is perhaps one of the most prosperous countries in Europe, while Holland, which is rich in Colonial possessions, is nevertheless in a position of great financial difficulty. Difference of monetary policy seems to me to be much more likely to account for the state of some countries than the presence or absence of Colonial territories. Before the war, Germany drew from the whole of her Colonies barely 1/200th of her imports, and she sent to them barely 1/180th of her exports. She sent out emigrants at the rate of 33 a year, or one in 20,000 of the annual increment of her population. Today she is doing quite as well in her trade with her African Colonies as she ever did when she held them. In 1929, the former German Colonies imported from all over the world £12,000,000 worth of goods. In that same year German exports were £600,000,000. Even if Germany could have acquired those territories and kept the whole world out of them, it would at the most have produced but the merest fraction of increase in her export trade.

There is, I believe, a real economic issue in the world to-day but certainly it is not one of mandated territories. The ex-German Colonies contribute only 0.1 per cent., or 1/1000th, of the total supplies of raw materials and imported foodstuffs required by the manufacturing nations of the world. It is not even a colonial question. All the dependent colonies of the world added together do not produce more than about 10 per cent. of the world requirements in raw materials and imported foodstuffs. The vast bulk of these supplies for world needs come from the United States, Soviet Russia, India, the British Dominions and the South American countries—all countries which have control of their own fiscal policy, which are determined to protect their own interests, and which, wherever they can make direct negotiations for their trade in their own interest.

Ergo, it just does not matter whether you have

Colonies or not. This argument the die-hards borrow from the radicals who also, to restrain the imperialism of expansionist countries, try to make out that the balance sheet of countries possessing Colonial Empires never shows a profit, at any rate a large profit, but very often a loss.

But Germany may well retort: If so, why do you hold on to your Colonies? We are willing to ease you of your burden. Why don't you let us do so? Why do you say the question is not even open to discussion? Do you contend that you have undertaken a moral obligation in accepting Mandates and in conquering countries which you cannot renounce, that you are trustees to civilisation? We shall undertake the moral obligation and carry it out at least as well as you, and we shall also bear the financial loss without squealing. If you claim to fulfil the duties of trusteeship better, why not discuss the claim in the open and see who is better? Why is the problem wholly undiscussable? To such a question of course there is no answer, and the very want of answer supplies the correct answer.

Reviews.

HEALTH AND HUMAN PROGRESS.

HEALTH AND HUMAN PROGRESS. By RENE SAND. (Kegan Paul.) 1935. 22cm. 278p. 10/6.

THIS volume is full of information derived from accurate scientific observations and based on correct statistics. Therein the writer depicts the importance of sociological medicine which is going to play such an important part in the progress of the world in future. Sociological medicine is defined by the author as "the art of prevention and cure, considered in its scientific basis and its individual and collective applications from the point of view of the reciprocal relations which connect the health of man with his living conditions."

Sociological medicine, not being a pure science like anatomy but a practical one, has derived its source from different elements. As shown by Dr. Sand, it was in industry that medicine established its contact with social affairs and the outcome of it was occupational medicine which naturally became one branch of sociological medicine. This branch later on developed rapidly and increased our knowledge about occupational accidents and industrial hygiene and industrial physiology—the science of economy and efficiency of effort.

Another element came from the realisation of the public—the need to fight chronic diseases, which naturally gave an impetus to hygienic measures, town planning, popular health instructions, physical culture, etc. As all these wanted the aid of men and money, sociological medicine had to be helped by social workers and scientific charity, which form naturally its third contribution. The fourth element was supplied by forensic medicine. From it arose the science of criminalology, its aim being to prevent crime by mental hygiene, education, social reforms, eugenics, etc. Sciences like natural sciences, moral and political sciences also helped to form sociological medicine. The writer has well brought out all the above points in his first chapter.

In the second chapter, the writer discusses the sources of sociological medicine which he has grouped

in five categories; (1) Statistical works, (2) Reports issued by public and private institutions, (3) Inquiries, (4) Studies and Surveys and (5) Case Records. In the third chapter, the author deals with the question of the density of population and its distribution between the town and the country.

The writer divides population into two main classes: (1) productive or active population and (2) non-active and gives statistics of different countries showing (1) the proportion of active to non-active population and (2) the average income of the active population. Among the poor countries two are prominently mentioned and they are India and China. Amongst the very rich are the United States, England, Canada and Australia. Here we notice one glaring fact that in the British Empire which is mainly formed by England, Canada, Australia and India, the first three belong to the very rich and the last to the very poor. Speaking about the Indian cities, the writer mentions that one man out of two does not earn a living wage. This very fact will give us a correct idea as to what the average income of the active population must be and what proportion there is between active and non-active population. The author also mentions the fact that 20% of the rural population of India is undernourished during the whole year and 30% during six months. One may be shocked to learn these figures of which most of us are ignorant.

In the fourth chapter, the author quotes statistics regarding death rates, average longevity, mortality at different ages and infantile mortality of different countries. He shows how hygiene has played a part in reducing infantile mortality and lowering the death rates. Speaking about the countries where hygienic measures are lacking to a great extent and where economical conditions are of the worst types, e. g., India and China, the infantile mortality and death rates are, he points out, tremendously high and the average longevity is very low. Also in these countries diseases are very rampant.

In India one infant out of six dies before it is a year old. We cannot put down this ghastly deathrate to the hereditary weakness of physique and lack of vigour of these infants. It is no doubt entirely dependent upon social environments, lack of hygienic measures, economical and occupational conditions of their parents. Here also the author points out that the biological inequality of social classes depends upon environments which act by occupation, income, housing, medical and sanitary organisation and education. He has discussed these factors in detail. In the rest of the book the author has tried to show how lack of insight into these factors is injurious to the health of the individual and consequently to the community.

This book is bound to interest social workers by giving them information which they need so much for making their efforts more effective and useful.

K. C. GHARPURE.

INDICTMENT OF DICTATORSHIPS.

QUACK, QUACK! LEONARD WOOLF. (Hogarth Press.) 1935. 20cm. 7/6.

SOCIOLOGISTS today, whatever pulpit they occupy, can have only one text, "See what has happened to liberty." The nineteenth century—a century of progress—has led to a century of tyranny. The nationalism which in the nineteenth century always identified itself with liberty, today tramples down upon the decaying corpse of its twin.

What is the cause of the sudden reversal of political evolution in Europe? The answer is the emergence of dictators in Central Europe. Mr. Leonard Woolf in the book before us gives a masterly analysis of the reversal of political evolution. He gives a powerful indictment of dictatorships and rightly points out that they are not the production of a sudden passion to explore and to open up a New Age, but are indicative of a flight back to the superstitions and emotions of primitive men. The author uses very strong language in exposing the shallowness of Hitler's philosophy and in attacking the demagogic crudity of its anti-semitic appeal.

Though we strongly disapprove of Central European dictatorships, we must point out that at least in Germany a combination of circumstances helped the rise of Hitler. History teaches us that at certain periods, not in one nation, but in all nations a single figure, neither learned nor of great intellectual power, has been able to capture the mind and organise the devotion of millions to a creed and to a programme which at another period and in different circumstances would fall on deaf ears or be dismissed as a tissue of shallow figments. The only explanation of this phenomenon is a combination of circumstances which helps the rise of a dictator. Similarly the explanation for the rise of Hitler is to be found in the iniquitous provisions of the Treaty of Versailles framed by England and France, countries whose governments, to quote the author, "are based on freedom, intelligence, and co-operation; and whose appeal is to reason and scepticism, tolerance and humanity." We would therefore throw the blame for the rise of the German dictator not on the German nation, but on the unreasonable and savage attitude of France and England at the end of the War.

The author is not pessimistic enough to feel that civilisation is going to end because of Hitlers and Mussolinis. But he feels sorry that even in England there should be men like Sir Oswald Mosley who openly agitate in favour of "this savage, scape-goat hunting, servile system of dictatorships."

The only defect of the book is that it is very strongly worded. Some of the expressions in the book remind one of the phraseology of John Wilkes and Philip Francis. Otherwise, the book is good. It is a new approach to the study of Fascism and Nazism and we recommend the book to every student of politics.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM.

STERILIZATION.

THE CASE FOR STERILIZATION. By LEON F. WHITNEY. (John Lane.) 1935. 22cm. 215p. 8/6.

STERILIZATION: A CHRISTIAN APPROACH. By J. P. HINTON and JOSEPHINE E. CALCUTT. (Allen & Unwin.) 1935. 20cm. 320p. 7/7.

HUMAN STERILIZATION TODAY: A SURVEY OF THE PRESENT POSITION. By CORA B. S. HODSON. (Watts.) 1934. 18cm. 55p. 7d.

THE movement of eugenics is mainly responsible for attracting the attention of the civilised world to the important problem of sterilization. The physical deterioration of the human race has aroused even conservative sections of society to the gravity of the problem. Eugenics societies have been formed and genuine efforts made to improve human physique. Sterilization is of two kinds; (1) eugenic, i. e., for the purification of the human race and (2) thera-

peutic, i. e., for the improvement of health. In this is also included the variety which is resorted to for purposes of birth control.

There is no doubt that sterilization is the safest, the surest and in the long run, the cheapest, method of birth control. Miss Hodson, however, condemns it in this form. In doing so she seems to us to labour under a misunderstanding. Nobody intends that sterilization should be performed in the case of childless people. The operation is really recommended in the case only of those who have a sufficiency of children and do not desire any more. Her fear, therefore, that young people might get themselves sterilized thoughtlessly and when they change their mind later on might find themselves at sea, is thus not well founded. Such an operation can be grudged by none in the case of a person who has got enough children and whose wife cannot stand any more pregnancies owing to weak health. In such cases sterilization is a veritable boon. Roughly speaking, this kind of sterilization may be called therapeutic. But the operation is almost of an irreparable character and if it has to be performed, it must be performed under proper safeguards. In the case of mental defectives and persons suffering from hereditary defects, sterilization will prevent the transfer of these defects to their progeny.

In a special chapter of his book the Rev. J. P. Hinton discusses the psychological and social results of sterilization. The one danger that makes people turn against it is that of promiscuity. But the danger is more fancied than real, as the experience of sterilisation so far shows. As Miss Hodson points out :

Experience in sterilization work in Switzerland, as elsewhere, has demonstrated the fact that the increased knowledge has actually led to an increased sense of responsibility. There, as in California, the cases which have been kept under careful observation over a period now covering two generations show a tendency to better sexual life, and not the expected relaxation of moral standards. Even the feeble minded, after sterilisation, with commonsense treatment, present no increased problem in the matter of promiscuity and venereal disease.

The Rev. Hinton rightly sounds a note of warning against the use of, compulsion in the matter of sterilization. Says he ;

To enforce sterilisation on any man is to impose the necessity of taking an action which he is not willing to take, that is, to deprive him of the right to choose his course and to offer the operation as the alternative. Surely the operation will then be regarded with dislike, to use a mild term, and be considered as the penalty of former conduct, whereas the essence of the voluntary system is that it should be regarded as a right and a privilege which the law at present does not sanction.

The legal position regarding sterilization operations is unfortunately not clear. A therapeutic operation is generally looked upon as any other kind of operation and it is not legally open to objection. But what about eugenic sterilisation? The Rev. Hinton thus deals with the point :

Where, however, the sole motive is eugenic, whether there is consent or not, it is generally felt that the operation will be illegal, because, it is argued, the intention is not to prevent a more serious disorder or improve the patient's health, but simply to relieve him of a certain amount of responsibility... This may appear illogical but the fact remains that there are no medical authorities who will publicly undertake to perform eugenic sterilisation; there are undoubtedly many such operations performed privately, but that does not make them legal.

In some countries sterilization is declared legal; but the position in England and in fact the whole

British Empire is rather ambiguous. A departmental committee generally known as the Brock Committee on Sterilization, was appointed in England in June 1932 and its report was published in December 1933. Its principal recommendation was the legalisation of voluntary sterilization under certain safeguards. Dr. Havelock Ellis thus criticises the findings of the Committee :

Anyone who knows anything of the cautious and timid temper of the conservative English mind in all matters that concern sex could have told the Brock Committee something that the forty-one learned experts called before it evidently knew nothing about; and that is that any law on sterilisation passed by a British Parliament would be so hedged round by qualifications as to be unworkable. What we need is simple. The well-to-do can already secure sterilisation. We want facilities, under medical advice, for those who cannot afford the operation. That could be provided today. The first step, indeed, may be difficult. All advance in social reform, even when it involves surgery, is and always has been, effected by heroic pioneers who are ready to act, and even, if need be, to become martyrs. They slowly win the world to their side. The law limps lamely behind.

In conclusion, it may be said that all the three books convincingly explain the subject, which is of such engrossing interest to humanity at large; and as such deserve to be read by all interested in its future,

R. A. RAIRKAR.

REJUVENATION.

REGENERATION IN MAN. By M. A. ANSARI (Taraporewala.) 1935. 22cm. 208p. Rs. 8.

WHAT the late Dr. Ansari calls Regeneration is usually known as Rejuvenation. He gives in this work a summary of all the work done by pioneers like Steinach and others by modern methods like vasectomy and transplantation of testes to counteract the effects of old age. He also mentions in passing the ideas of Hindus, Buddhists, Egyptians and Jews on this subject, which has always interested mankind but for which no reliable methods were found until Brown-Sequard started experimenting on himself by injecting extracts of the testicles of dogs. He reported his results to the Paris Academy of Science in 1889 and was laughed at for his pains, as it is the habit of that august body to treat pioneers with scorn. But the idea was bound to grow, though Brown-Sequard did not succeed in doing much, because the activity of the sex gland is lost during the process of preparing it for injection. Other investigators however succeeded in demonstrating the importance of the internal secretion of the sex glands for general health and proved that man is as old as his sex glands. Then about 1894, Steinach started his famous experiments on rats and proved that vasectomy caused an atrophy of the sex tubules which produced the sperm and a multiplication of the interstitial cells which produce the internal secretion and thus improves general health.

Voronoff started his experiments in 1917, on animals first of all, principally sheep and goats, by transplanting the testes of young rams into the scrotum of senile ones. Their health at once improved, but if the grafts were removed after some time, they relapsed into senility. He applied his discovery to human beings afterwards. Others took up the same kind of work in different places and the author himself gives an account of his own extensive work in the same line, consisting of auto-regeneration by vasectomy (the operation which is indicated for birth control), homo-regeneration, i. e., transplanting human

testes into senile men, homo-regeneration, i. e., and transplanting the testes of apes into men, hetero-regeneration, i. e., transplanting the testes of rams, goats and bulls.

At the end he gives a summary of results obtained and an analysis of cases operated on by himself. The results cover a large range of symptoms, such as improvement in appetite, weight, skin, hair, tone of muscles, lowering of blood pressure, improvement in mental and nervous condition, in vision, hearing, voice, and potency.

He concludes that (1) no bad effects are produced by vasectomy; but (2) though it gives the best results in suitable cases, it is not universally successful; (3) when successful, it reduces blood pressure, increases muscular power, increases appetite, removes indigestion and constipation, improves nutrition of the skin and hair, improves memory, temper and mental capacity and increases sexual desire, potency and pleasure. (4) Grafting of testes has no ill effects. It is more difficult and costly, but more generally applicable. (5) Human testes give best results and apes' next, etc.

The technique of the several operations will not interest the layman. This is therefore hardly a book for the general reader, but the results are interesting in view of the fact that most people are still afraid of becoming impotent as a consequence of vasectomy, which has recently come into prominence owing to its application to birth-control.

R. D. KARVE.

SHORT NOTICE.

THE CHEMICAL CONTROL OF CONCEPTION. By JOHN R. BAKER. (Chapman & Hall.) 1935. 22cm. 173p. 15.

THIS is principally an account of the research made by the author on the spermicidal properties of different substances, including patent preparations on the market and other chemical compounds. It will be a surprise to many that out of seven patent suppositories tested, only two were found effective in the standard test.

The author gives a detailed technique for testing the sperm killing properties of different substances and shows that germ-killing power has no necessary relation to sperm-killing power. So most preparations till now were based on the wrong idea that strong disinfectants must necessarily be most effective.

Some so-called experts have been advocating sponges soaked in water as an efficient contraceptive. The author's remarks are illuminating.

It is often remarked what a splendid spermicide water is, since sperms die in it; but this is a very thoughtless statement, for sperms always die at once in every un-mixed liquid! It would be equally sensible to advocate nitrogen as a poison gas for use in war. It would be quite legitimate to mix water with 0.9% saline at 1, 2, 4, 8 etc. per cent. and to test its spermicidal power like that of any other substance. It would come out very poorly in such tests: it would not immobilize all sperms at 32%! One could put a gram of water in the vagina with very little likelihood of interfering with conception, even if it were not absorbed.

Baker has also a chapter on the stimulation of sperms by certain drugs, such as strychnine hydrochloride at 1/16 and 1/64%. This may be useful for artificial insemination in cases where sterility is due to the weakness of the sperms. Thus the book considers control of conception in both directions, but most of it is too technical for the general reader.

R. D. KARVE.

SEX HABITS. VITAL FACTOR IN WELL-BEING. By A. BUSCHKE and F. JACOBSON. (Emerson Books, New York.) 20cm. 204p. \$2.50.

BESIDES Sex Anatomy and Physiology of both sexes, the book contains chapters on abnormalities, general diseases, heredity, eugenics, and the authors' views on marriage and morals. The information given is adequate, but the views on morals are an extraordinary jumble of opinions, ancient and modern. They admit that both men and women are polygamous by instinct, but men more so than women, and propose the monogamous ideal as a solution. They propose to achieve equality of rights by restricting the liberty of both. They say at the same time that lapses of men from monogamy do not matter so much as those of women and that women are much more inclined to forgive such occasional lapses on the part of men. They thus practically accept the double standard of morality, while theoretically protesting against it. They assume that giving liberty to both sexes must lead to degeneration in men, though there is no evidence of its having led to degeneration in other animals. Calling such liberty bad names like "lechery" is hardly an argument. Their inability to think scientifically is amply seen from such remarks as "the fact that many infants-in-arms masturbate does not suffice to prove that such masturbatory acts provide or can provide sexual gratification". (p. 100), "That is why the women's form is more gently rounded and more pleasing than that of the man (p. 101)".

They have the courage to differ from such a great authority as Magnus Hirschfeld as regards homosexuality. The latter has given cogent reasons for thinking that real homosexuals are born that way, though there may be pseudo-homosexuals created by circumstances such as the segregation of persons of the same sex, as in prisons etc., while these authors say that bad company can make homosexuals, without any proof except their opinion. They also differ from Van der Velde as regards preliminary love-play before actual intercourse. They think this inadvisable and that the man should proceed to coitus and ejaculation as quickly as possible. Love-play is especially useful to produce orgasm in women, but these authors consider that unimportant, ignoring the fact that the greatest unhappiness in marriage is caused by want of sexual satisfaction. There is no doubt that the sex act may be harmful to men when excessively prolonged, but a certain amount of love-play is found in all animals and is perfectly natural and harmless, and essential to the satisfaction of the women. It almost looks as if these authors, in spite of their protests, really regard sex intercourse as something bad, to be got over as quickly as possible.

The book is illustrated and the information given makes the book worth reading, but the mixture of morals and medicine is not very palatable.

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