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Topics of the Week.

The British Indian Congress.

THE Congress has now very carefully drawn its skirts away from the States' people. Naturally the Princes are overjoyed, and so is their mouthpiece, *United India and Indian States*. There is now only one thing left to be done by the Congress, and we hope that *United India's* suggestion will receive a favourable consideration from the Congress' leaders. The Congress resolution says, the States' subjects must fight their own battles. This follows logically, observes the Princes' paper, "from the position of Gandhi and other Congressmen that the Congress politically does not exist for Indian States. They are foreign territory to Gandhi just as they are to the constitution of British India. Why then call the Congress the Indian National Congress, and not the British Indian National Congress?"

Don't Mix up Red and Yellow.

AND, conformably to the change in name, the Congress should also revise its constitution. For if the States' people are included in the Congress but are denied any active help, "Mr. Amritlal Seth and his friends may reasonably complain that the Congress is treating the subjects of the States as the sons of Hagar were treated." Therefore, *United India* says:

The Congress, we hope, will follow up its declaration that the States' subjects should fight their own battles with a sensible revision of the constitution which (at present) will use the States' subjects for purposes of British Indian political agitation but would not provide for a similar courtesy by British Indians for the subjects of the States. Scores of subjects of Indian States, notably from certain South Indian States, pulled the chestnuts out of the fire for the Congress during the days of the civil disobedience movement. They did so because they expected the British Indian members

of the Congress would do for them as they would be done by. We do not blame the Indian National Congress for its recent resolution; we think it is undeniably the right position for the National Congress which, on its political side is a purely British Indian concern, to take. But we believe that the Congress, having begun to think clearly and act clearly, must not stop with this declaration of its constitutional incompetence to work for the States. It must overhaul the Congress constitution in such a way as to give no room for misunderstanding either by the Princes or their subjects in the matter. The Congress must recast its constitution and confine the area of its jurisdiction to the portion of the country indicated in red on the map.

Real Reason for Postponement.

THERE is a refreshing candour about the speeches of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. In the Subjects Committee of the Congress he made a thundering attack on the policy of the pro-office group. In doing so he related how the Congress was moving further and further away from the Gandhi cult. Now everybody seems to have conveniently forgotten—both the pro-office and anti-office sections—that to Mahatma Gandhi entry into the Councils is not a matter of expediency to be decided according to the circumstances of the moment, but a matter of immutable principle, so long as non-co-operation lasts. Council entry is not merely politically undesirable, but is morally reprehensible. The wheel however has now turned round a full circle—even with the Mahatma. Gandhiji looked upon Council entry as a cardinal sin in 1921; he regards Council entry now as an imperative moral duty—though non-co-operation still holds the field so far as the Congress is concerned.

EVERYONE winced when Dr. Pattabhi related this bit of recent history, and Dr. Pattabhi did it very incisively. The home thrust went deep and it could not be repulsed. For what he said is true, though everyone would like to turn his blind eye to it. Similarly, after returning from the Congress, he explained to a public meeting in Masulipatam why a decision on the question of office acceptance was deferred. He said—and it was fairly well known before—that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's presidentship was desired and actively engineered by Mahatma Gandhi; and it was accepted after the Pandit had made known that he was uncompromisingly opposed to office acceptance. But the Congress was almost overwhelmingly in favour of the policy. If the Congress were to take a decision which went clean against the President's convictions, the President would have to resign. In order to avoid this contingency, the Congress adopted a non-committal attitude, adducing for the course such untenable excuses as the uncertainties due to the international situation, as if the Congress's immediate policy depends to any very large extent upon events abroad!

"Trust the Congress."

IF Dr. Pattabhi is open and downright, Mr. Rajagopalachar who is destined for the presidentship of the Congress to be held at Poona in Christmas is secretive and diplomatic. In a speech in Madras he hotly contested the proposition that the postponement of the decision on office acceptance was due to any degree to a difference of opinion in the Working Committee or the Subjects Committee or the Congress. He maintained that it was due wholly to the feeling of the majority that an immediate decision would be premature. Rajaji's reasoning would have appeared thin to unbiased observers at any time, but in view of the revelations made by the Masulipatam doctor its foolishness and disingenuousness are plain.

RAJAJI also tried to defend the deliberate vagueness which the Congress has left about the policy to be pursued by the Congress members in the legislatures from day to day, whether the decision goes in favour of their accepting office or against it. The Congress looks upon the new constitution in the same way as Germany does upon the Versailles Treaty, that is, as a *dictat*. The *dictat* must be reversed. What more can the electors want to know about the Congress policy? Hitler fought the first election on the undoing of Versailles and the recent one upon the undoing of a part of Versailles—the demilitarised Rhineland zone. Did he say in what particular manner he would encompass the death of the Versailles Treaty? He stated his objective in broad terms and the German people followed him to the polls. So should the Indian people cast their votes for Congress candidates who are out for killing the Hoare constitution, without asking any questions as to how the killing is to be done.

Weasel Words.

THE Congress played the same trick at the last Assembly election. Without committing itself to anything in particular, it flaunted just two words before the voters—Rejection of the Hoare constitution and Constituent Assembly for framing a new constitution. Rejection and Constituent Assembly are weasel words. They are very useful as rabble rousers, and they have the great merit of laying no particular obligations on those who use them. They may mean much and they may mean little. When the Congress candidates used them they meant a great deal; now they mean nothing. Poor Liberals, who are so careful of the *nuances* of the expressions that they employ, were deceived by these words. Rejection, they said, necessarily involves Council boycott; and Council boycott may not be possible. The word "rejection" must therefore be avoided. Now they find that "rejection" involves nothing in particular: neither Council boycott, nor office boycott, nor prohibition of the use of the constitution for humdrum purposes. "Rejection" only means a sternly hostile attitude to the constitution, which the Liberals too share in full.

LIBERALS were similarly alarmed by the other word—"Constituent Assembly." They thought that some immediate action would be required by the use of that word or at any rate action in the immediate future. But nobody in the Congress now worries about it. The word served its purpose; it secured a victory in the election; now it may be allowed to fade from our minds. It is now said that a constituent assembly will not be possible in the existing circumstances; nor will it be possible for a long, long time to come. A revolution must come first; we must emerge successful from it; then only can we think of a constituent assembly. Even so the difficulties surrounding the plan are tremendous; anyhow it is not a question

that should worry us at present. Quite so, but then why was it put before the voters? Only because it has a great vote-catching quality. Liberals said at the time of the election just what Congressmen are saying now—that a constituent assembly is not a question for the present, or for the immediate future. But they find now the Congress leaders explaining that it is nothing more than a word. The same thing happened with Independence as opposed to Dominion Status. In their simplicity Liberals took it to mean severance of the British connexion and felt serious misgivings about the Congress policy in this respect. But Mahatma Gandhi came along and put it right. Independence was only substance of Independence and thus nothing more than Dominion Status. If only Liberals would develop a little of that quality in which the Congress abounds, political slimness, unity would be nearly accomplished. Whether unity attained on this basis is worth while is another matter.

Another Slogan Needed.

MR. RAJAGOPALACHAR seems to think that his likening the new constitution to the Versailles Treaty and calling it a *dictat* would work just those wonders at the next election that "Rejection" and "Constituent Assembly" did at the last election. But he is not original in the description of the Hoare constitution as an Indian Versailles. We ourselves described it in those words before he did, and, we believe, Raja Gaznafarali did the same thing on behalf of the Mahomedans. All progressives are united in their desire to throw off the yoke of the new constitution. There is no particular reason why the voter should vote Congress when other progressives have the same objective. A Progressive Bloc is the one thing to which all our energies should be bent. But the Congress leaders are not thinking of it at all. They are rather thinking of a slogan which, while imposing no definite duties on Congressmen, would frighten Liberals and others who hold identical views on the constitution off the field. We beg to say to Rajaji, the Indian Versailles is not a slogan which will frighten Liberals. Let him use his ingenuity in inventing another.

Princes in the Constituent Assembly.

THE Congress turned down in the Subjects Committee the demand of the States' people for the inclusion of their representatives in the constituent assembly for the States. If the leaders of the Congress hoped thereby to relieve the fears of the Princes, it would appear that they have not succeeded. For *United India* interprets the exclusion of the States' people from the constituent assembly to mean that the assembly will consist only of British Indians and that it will proceed to formulate the constitution for the whole of India including the States. Of course it does not believe that the assembly will ever be convoked, but if it should be *United India* cannot understand what right a British Indian constituent assembly can have to frame a constitution which will be applicable to the States. "Any talk of a constituent assembly," it says, "in the present condition of India is absurd. But it is still more absurd to talk of a constituent assembly of British Indian people to settle the constitution for the whole of India."

DEAR old *United India*! Such is not the intention of the Congress. The constituent assembly is no doubt intended to frame a constitution for an all-India federation, which will therefore include the States. But the assembly will not consist of British Indian representatives alone. It will also include the representatives of the States. Only the States' representatives will be the Princes and not the States' subjects. This

is just what *United India* wants. It need not therefore cry out against the denial by the Congress of "that much vaunted right of self-determination." The Congress does not wish to deprive the rulers of States of their right of self-determination; the Congress wishes to deprive only the States' people of this right. Thus the Congress has given to the Princes all that they want. But probably the rulers of States and *United India* will refuse to take such an assurance from us. We would therefore humbly suggest to Pandit Jawaharlal that he should forthwith issue a communique giving an authoritative expression to the real intentions of the Congress so that the Princes' doubts might be set at rest.

Communal Disturbance in Poona.

COMMUNAL harmony which prevailed in Poona for forty years without interruption was rudely disturbed last week over the question of music, not before, but near a mosque. It happens that in a certain locality in Poona a Hindu temple of Maruti and a Muslim mosque happen to be situated at a short distance from each other. The Hindus have been worshipping in the temple to the accompaniment of music for years past; but since the road-widening activities of the local municipality resulted in giving the temple a very prominent location on an important public road, the Muslims started objecting to the Hindu worship in the temple being accompanied by music. In view of the approach of the annual birthday celebration of Hanuman a few days ago the matter assumed special urgency and the authorities followed the usual bureaucratic method of smoothing over their task by forbidding the Hindus to use music. The prohibition naturally aroused strong resentment in the Hindu community which agitated for its withdrawal. As Friday last was the closing day of the celebration, the Hindus, being anxious not to let the day pass without their customary prayers in the temple, pressed for a decision. It would appear that after consulting local Muslim leaders the District Magistrate, while not withdrawing his general ban on music in the temple, so modified it as to permit the Hindus to use soft music in connection with the ceremonies only on that day.

It would be seen from this recital of events immediately preceding last Friday's unhappy occurrence that the Muslims were by no means too favourably inclined to the concession shown by officials to the Hindus. This fact which was obvious to anybody even remotely in touch with the developments in the Sonya-Maruti situation should really have dictated to the authorities the advisability of being prepared for trouble, while hoping for the best. Their want of circumspection it was that made it possible for the Muslims successfully to interfere with the Hindus' restricted right of offering worship in the temple. This intolerance on the part of the Muslims is greatly to be deplored. Their wanton invasion on the Hindus' rights has led to two persons losing their lives as a result of the disturbances and two hundred people receiving more or less serious injuries. With a little more foresight and firmness on the part of those responsible for the maintenance of law and order, most, if not all, of these unpleasant consequences of Muslim fanaticism might have been avoided.

PEACE has once again been established in Poona. The authorities would however be labouring under a delusion if they think that the real problem has been solved. To expect the Hindus to give up their right to perform puja with the help of music in the temple which they have been exercising for years past is to expect too much. We should be the last to be accused

of any intention to incite the Hindus against the Muslims or of any anti-Muslim bias. But we cannot help feeling that in the Sonya-Maruti affair the Muslims allowed their religious zeal to get the better of their judgment and discretion. If music in the temple, even if played outside their prayer hours, is to wound their susceptibilities, music in connection with marriage or other ceremonies played at all odd hours by private persons living roundabout mosques must be supposed to have an equally disturbing effect on their mentality. Are the Muslims then going to be so unreasonable as to ask for the absolute stoppage of all such music? They ought not to grudge to other communities the same freedom in of religious matters that they demand for themselves.

Uplift of Depressed Classes.

SIR PHIROZE SETHNA recently raised in the Council of State the important question of the uplift of depressed classes. With the general problem of the removal of untouchability or its religious implication Sir Phiroze Sethna did not concern himself on this occasion. He restricted his attention to an improvement in their position from the educational, economic and hygienic points of view. His concrete suggestion to this end was that the Central Government should make a grant to provincial Governments of a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs for being expended on these objects.

SIR PHIROZE was not unmindful of the fact that the problem of rural uplift had recently engaged the active sympathy of the Government of India who had provided for an expenditure of Rs. one crore in their 1935-36 budget for that purpose. There was almost a certain prospect too of still larger funds being made available for that purpose in coming years. It cannot be gainsaid that this expenditure would to some extent benefit the depressed classes living in villages. Nor could the local Governments be said to be not alive to their responsibilities in the matter. In fact Sir Phiroze showed himself to be closely in touch with what was being done in the provinces in order to effect an improvement in the condition of the untouchables. In this connection he even praised the efforts of the Madras Government for securing house-sites for the depressed classes. Even so Sir Phiroze was insistent that a further sum of Rs. 50 lakhs be spent out of the central exchequer upon the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans.

He was even prepared to add the words "as soon as convenient to Government" to his resolution. But his sweet reasonableness failed to evoke any response from the official side. The Home Secretary merely treated the Council to a recital of the ameliorative measures adopted in the different provinces in regard to the depressed classes and ended by an offer to send the report of the debate to provincial Governments. That is good in its own way, but it is surely not showing the Government's practical sympathy with the untouchables which was what Sir Phiroze Sethna aimed at. The resolution was rejected by 11 to 27 votes.

European Non-Co-operation in Kenya.

THE summary rejection by the Imperial Government of the Kenya Europeans' demand for greater control of the affairs of the Colony was a sharp slap in their face. But the Europeans are not going to be deterred in the pursuit of their cherished desire by this disheartening treatment, nor are they in a mood to take the affront lying down. There are indications that they are now busy forging sanctions in order to make their demand effective. The recent correspondence between Mr. O'Shea and Lord Francis Scott goes to support such an impression.

MR. O'SHEA, while insisting that the demand should be pressed with all possible vigour, proposes a form of non-co-operation for bringing the Government down on its knees. He does not propose boycott of elections to the Legislative Council. Indeed he wants the Europeans to seek election and to stick to their seats. But thereafter he suggests that their co-operation with the Government should cease. If they participate in the Council's work, it should be confined only to an expression of the Europeans' dissatisfaction with the present policy of the Government. They would further be expected to lose no opportunity of making it clear to the Governor that he cannot expect any co-operation from them unless a policy of developing Kenya as a British colony is decided upon.

IN other words, this means that the Europeans are bent upon securing for themselves the unfettered power of ordering the Colony's affairs in any manner they like. The demand is so palpably selfish and insolent that we believe the Imperial Government will not show itself to be so lost to a sense of their responsibility for the well-being of the natives and other races inhabiting Kenya as to fall in with the Europeans' wishes. But one cannot be too sure where the party that makes claims is the Europeans. Will the Imperial Government be equally strong in putting down the threatened non-co-operation movement in Kenya as it was in India? Anyway it is up to the non-European races residing in Kenya to combine in order to counter this white menace.

Indian Deputation to Malaya.

THE suggestion to send a deputation to Malaya to inquire into labour conditions there was officially stated in the Assembly to be under the consideration of the Government. We hope the personnel of the deputation will include suitable labour representatives. If the task to be assigned to the deputation is one of fact-finding, we do not know that there is any particular advantage in having a large personnel.

AS is well known, one of the matters in issue between the two countries relates to the continuance or otherwise of the scheme of assisted emigration. As the final custodians of the well-being of the Indian nationals in Malaya, the question obviously needs careful consideration at the hands of the India Government. While nobody would advocate a wanton closure of this outlet for India's surplus population, it is necessary that every possible care be taken to ensure for the Indian labourer the payment of a fair wage in the conditions of life in Malaya. A 20 per cent. cut in his wages has been in force since October 1930 in view of the then existing severe slump in the rubber industry. The slump has now become a thing of the past even in official eyes, as is evidenced by their demand of the full amount of quit rent from planters. At any rate its recovery is by now so pronounced as to make this heavy sacrifice on the part of the labourer unnecessary. The deputation, when in Malaya, will, we doubt not, assure itself how far such a belief is well founded.

THE Malayan Government is reported to be asking for permanent exemption from the operation of the rule requiring a stated sex-ratio to be maintained among the emigrants. It is not known on what grounds this extraordinary request is based. Such an exemption would appear to be in operation at present, but it is one thing to tolerate it as a temporary measure and quite another to demand its perpetuation. For our part we have always doubted the wisdom of the Indian Government being so accommodating in a matter having such an intimate bearing on the stand-

ard of Indian morals in Malaya. But it would serve no useful purpose now to quarrel with what is past and gone. At the same time we think it very improbable that Indian opinion will reconcile itself to any relaxation, either temporary or permanent, in the operation of the rule about the sex-ratio among Indian emigrants.

Causes of Zanzibar Rioting.

A COMMITTEE owing its appointment to the Zanzibar Government is at present busy inquiring into the circumstances of the rioting that took place at Zanzibar in February last. From the evidence that is being submitted to it, there appears to be a surprising measure of unanimity among all sections of people as to the causes of the public disturbance being enquired into by this body. It seems that control of marketing in any form made its appearance for the first time in Zanzibar in 1934. Prior to that native producers were free to sell to their customers any produce without regard to its quality.

THE new marketing legislation required them to place on the market only copra of a standard variety. If it fell below the prescribed standard it was liable to be rejected by the Government inspectors. The rigorous enforcement of this regulation meant a terrible hardship to petty Arab dealers and producers for reasons not difficult to appreciate. The ruthless rejection of produce of inferior quality involved them in heavy financial losses and reduced them to a state of starvation. Economic distress caused by the strict enforcement of such harassing regulations was thus the prime cause of the disturbance.

Social Legislation in Baroda.

BARODA is noted not so much for its political progress as for its progress in social legislation. It has on its statute book social laws like the Divorce Act which hardly any other State, not to mention British India, can boast of. Under its Early Marriage Prevention law, the marriage age of boys and girls is fixed at 18 and 14 respectively, all marriages below that age-limit being punishable with a maximum fine of Rs. 200. Marriages of parties below 8 are declared null and void and are punishable with the maximum punishment of one month's simple imprisonment or a fine not exceeding Rs. 500 or both.

SAVE for one feature it is doubtful if the working of this law in 1934-35 can be said to have been attended with successful results in the sense of its greater acceptability to the people. That feature was the smaller number of applications for exemption—27 as against 34 in the previous year. But even there the satisfaction is tempered by regret that the proportion of such applications rejected, instead of showing an increase, shows a decline from 14.7 to 7.4 per cent. The number of offences against the law went up from 3,000 to nearly 3,500 and the proportion of convictions decreased from about 81 to 77.6 per cent. The percentage of fines of more than Rs. 10 for offences against the law also recorded a rise by 2 to 34.4 per cent., the total amount realised by fines in the State mounting up by nearly Rs. 10,000 to over Rs. 70,000. One wonders if all this can be regarded as an indication of the increasing popularity of the measure.

The Divorce Act is intended to provide facilities for divorce to high caste Hindus. Though 53 suits under it were registered, in 1934-35 only in four cases did the parties belong to castes in which divorce is not allowed. In one case a Brahmin husband sought divorce on the grounds of misbehaviour and cruelty of his wife and in two cases Brahmin women asked for divorce on the ground of husband's cruelty.

ENGLAND'S TRADE WITH INDIA.

THE subject of trade relations between India and the United Kingdom has always loomed large in the public controversies of both countries. The recent decision of the Indian Legislative Assembly to terminate the preferential trade agreement arrived at in Ottawa over three years ago has brought these discussions to ahead. Anglo-Indian papers are assuming the pose of non-chalance, hinting that, as it is, England is reaping little benefit out of the Agreement and that if India chooses to forego the extremely advantageous concessions granted to it by England, the latter will take the situation philosophically. The whole situation created, first by the introduction and now by the recommended termination of the Ottawa Trade Agreement is so mystifying to the average citizen that any fresh light on the subject is welcome.

A paper on the recent developments and possibilities of Britain's export trade with India was read to the members of the East India Association in London by Sir Thomas Ainscough on the 16th of January. If anybody knows anything about Indo-British trade, that person is Sir Thomas, who has held the post of the Senior British Trade Commissioner in India for over 18 years. When Sir Thomas Ainscough read his paper the atmosphere was free from the prejudices created by a heated controversy in the Legislature. India is the largest single market for British exports of manufactured articles and Great Britain occupies a similar leading position in India's export trade. It cannot, therefore, be denied that the nature and prospects of trade between the two are of special significance to both.

Sir Thomas complained that several Indian writers forget the dependence of Indian exports to U. K. on British exports to India. Such shortsightedness indeed characterises lay writings in both countries, but it is to be feared that even men of the high training and experience of Sir Thomas do not take into account all the relevant facts about Indo-British trade. The disparity between the value of British imports into India and of Indian imports into U. K. is only latterly being narrowed down. And, what is more to the point, Great Britain is annually importing into India about 80 crores worth of invisible imports, in the shape of services and enterprise for which it refuses to be paid in the only natural way, namely, merchandise. With the growing attenuation of triangular trade the unsatisfactory state of the balance of accounts between U. K. and India is becoming more and more apparent. England must be prepared to take from India goods and services of the total value of British imports of goods and services into India. After Ottawa, as before it, there is no sign at all of such an expansion of Indian imports into Great Britain or of a corresponding contraction of U. K. imports into India. In such a situation Indian writers are more than justified in holding that it is possible by proper negotiation to induce U. K. to take more of Indian produce or to agree to send less to India.

It is significant that with regard to the working of the Ottawa Agreement Sir Thomas Ainscough feels constrained to remark that "no useful purpose is served by any attempt to balance the exact advantage derived by either party to it." He, however, is not in doubt about the very decided advantages conferred by the Agreement on British exporters. By the end of the fiscal year 1931-32 Britain's "export trade with India was parlous indeed." The exports of piecegoods, steel, machinery and other articles had shrunk to a fraction of the pre-slump average. The linking of the rupee to sterling gave Great Britain its first decided advantage in India over serious rivals such as U. S. A. and Germany. This Sir Thomas admits, but he feels that the gold exports and Ottawa preferences are even more important factors in rehabilitating British trade in India. The average gold holding among the poorer classes in India is so low that its sales cannot have helped appreciably to relieve the widespread distress in India, as Sir Thomas appears to believe. He is, however, undoubtedly right in claiming that the purchasing power released by the gold sales has helped British exports to India.

The far-reaching influence of the preferential treatment given to British imports into India, either under the Ottawa Agreement or under other special arrangements such as those for cotton textiles and steel, are fully appreciated by the Senior British Trade Commissioner. For one thing, as he points out, the new trend in commercial policy put heart into the loyal tradesmen who had become extremely nervous during the boycott days. Secondly, says Sir Thomas, the Ottawa preferences apply in precisely those trades where foreign competition is most keen and where a stimulus is needed. Provisions, hardware, instruments and appliances, paints and colours, non-ferrous metals and a host of other minor industries have distinctly benefitted under the regime of preference. Had it not been for the cheap Japanese imports the advantage would have been even greater.

There is much irritation caused in all British circles over Japanese competition in a market, which by tradition has been looked upon as a special preserve of U. K. The representative of the British Chemical Industry who attended the meeting addressed by Sir Thomas thanked the several Government departments in India who are carrying on propaganda in favour of improved agriculture, and particularly for chemical fertilisers, as the extensive custom so created has mostly gone to U. K. But he complained that cheap foreign manures were being dumped into India and that it was necessary to restrict these to enable British exporters to help the Indian rayat to modernise his agriculture. There is much talk about administrative discrimination against U. K. in connection with the powers of a responsible Indian government. A full knowledge about the administrative preferences, e. g. propaganda, now secured by British firms will give us an idea as to the vested interests that are being safeguarded.

Taking British trade with India as a whole Sir Thomas feels that "there is no doubt that the prefe-

rences have enabled us (the British) to displace a considerable volume of continental and American trade and will become even more valuable when the general economic situation improves and purchasing power recovers." Similar has been his conclusion with regard to the imports of cotton-textiles, iron and steel and machinery. That the preferential and 'differential' facilities offered to British imports have helped British importers to maintain and improve their position all round is a fact that the Senior British Trade Commissioner frankly admits.

Sir Thomas is to be congratulated for this frankness and deserves the appreciation of his countrymen for other words of counsel that he has addressed to them. With regard to the Japanese competition he does no more than make mention of their superior bargaining position. With regard to the low purchasing power of the Indian people he feels more concerned. It is his considered opinion that Britain's interest—hard commercial interest, not mere political sagacity—lies in welcoming and assisting the natural industrialisation of India. It is only by bringing India into the modern economic system that the standards of its people can be raised. Surely, such a development will restrict the imports of British staple articles of consumption. But their place will be taken by capital products, e. g. machinery and motor cars, and by the large number of technically produced articles that enter into the consumption of a modernised people. Sir Thomas advises his countrymen to be actively adaptive in this respect and to follow the path of industrial co-operation with India.

The spirit animating this advice is to be wholeheartedly welcomed. It is to be hoped that the fate of the Ottawa resolution in the Assembly and the almost complete unanimity of hostile Indian criticism

of the working of that Agreement will convince Sir Thomas and his friends that, much as Indians will like Britain's industrial co-operation in India's interest, such an indiscriminate arrangement as the Ottawa Agreement brought about by a non-responsible government without consultation with representatives of national economic opinion will not make for friendliness. There are extremists in both countries. The number of responsible Indians wishing wantonly to do harm to British trade in India is not larger than the number of responsible British politicians, leave alone the industrialists themselves, who see in the Indian question a 'bread-and-butter' problem for U. K. But the path of industrial co-operation between the two countries based on a frank and open exchange of comparable advantages, and aimed at a rapid industrialisation of India itself, by Indian enterprise, is a policy that ought to commend itself to saner elements in India as well as U. K.

It is in this spirit that Mr. Jinnah's amendment to the Ottawa resolution was framed, and whatever might have been the particular views of parties which combined in its support, we feel convinced that further progress along lines of equal co-operation will meet with a sympathetic reception in India. Unfortunately, however, the councils of the Government of India have yet to feel the radical transformation that must result from the new economic policy. If anything, under the new Finance Member a definite retrogression in the industrial policy of the State has taken place. Advocates of friendliness and co-operation like Sir Thomas Ainscough have a task of considerable difficulty before them in persuading British administrators and traders that not by preference nor by safeguards, but by good-will and efficiency alone will British trade prosper in India.

BRITAIN'S "THIMBLE-RIGGING FOREIGN POLICY."

ETHIOPIA is on the point of being conquered, but we feel certain that though conquered, she will not be subdued. For Italy it will be a barren conquest. But the conquest will be due as much to the aggressive imperialism of Italy as to the selfishness of France and to the indecisiveness of Britain. Throughout the whole of this sad affair Britain is found to be in two minds, now trying to persuade Ethiopia to accept a dishonourable peace, now using brave words to Italy about the application of sanctions. This dual policy, if it may be so called, was well described by Mr. Greenwood when winding up the debate in the House of Commons on 6th April for the Labour Party. He narrated how on many occasions the British Government had defaulted, in the most grievous manner, on their imperative League obligations. Even at the beginning of last year Italian troops and munitions had been pouring into East Africa and the British Government was informed by its own officers that Mussolini contemplated a big adventure in that part of the world. Yet the British Government did nothing. It could then have proposed the closing of the Suez Canal to Italian troops and war material being hurried into Eritrea and the Italian Somaliland,

and that would itself have nipped the war in the bud. But the British Government went on, as Mr. Greenwood remarked, with its "thimble-rigging" policy. "We are invited from day to day," he said, "to guess under which thimble the pea is and nobody ever knows. The Foreign Secretary invites our attention to the League of Nations thimble while some other Minister, it may be the Secretary of State for War, who makes indiscreet speeches outside this House, invites us to find the pea under another thimble."

The sanctions policy of the British Government came in for an attack from every quarter of the House. The anti-sanctions group attacked the Government for having embarked on that policy at all and the pro-sanctions group for being so weak and vacillating in putting the policy into force. In any case all agreed in thinking that if sanctions were to be applied at all they should be applied only if you are prepared to go to the end of the chapter in case of need. To apply only such sanctions as would irritate the aggressor without halting him was worse than useless. But this is just what Britain has done. From the military point of view, observed Mr. Churchill, the Ethiopian people are being heavily defeated and it is

doubtful whether they can hold out till the big rains come. Their country will then be annexed by Italy. "If that happens it will be certainly a most melancholy chapter in the recent records of the British people. The aggressor will be triumphant. He will be rewarded with gains far beyond the Hoare-Laval proposals. The League of Nations—50 nations led by one—will have been unable to do anything of the slightest use to the Abyssinians. Indeed, all we have done for them, as far as I can remember, is to put an embargo on their obtaining arms before they were attacked. Otherwise, we have done nothing for them at all—except, of course, the speeches which have been made. . . . Now it was a very grievous thing to lead these 50 nations up the blind alley of fatuity and frustration. It was a grievous thing, also, to encourage, however indirectly, a primitive population to a desperate resistance and then, in the event, to leave them to their fate. . . . The conclusion from this story is that we should not intervene in these matters unless we are in earnest and prepared to carry our intervention to all necessary lengths."

The debate at once centred round the question: will not economic and financial sanctions necessarily lead, in a protracted dispute, to military sanctions; and if they will, does it not mean that a nation which is not prepared for war in any circumstances should also refrain from using the milder sanctions? Sir Austen Chamberlain raised this question very pointedly. He said: "In very few cases, if in any, will economic sanctions alone be sufficient to deter an aggressor, and when the aggression has once begun the effect of economic sanctions is very slow. If a war lasts a long time the effect may be very influential on the ultimate result. You have no right to press for sanctions unless you are prepared to make them effective, and you have no right to press them unless you tell your people, our people, openly and frankly, that with the imposition of sanctions the issue of peace and war passes out of our hands into the hands of the other party. . . . The lesson of the Abyssinian war and the action of the League of Nations in regard to it is that we have to make up our minds in this country, as they have done in other countries, whether we mean to make collective security a reality or whether it is only to be a decoration to our speeches. . . . The question of the League lies in this. If aggression is proved and declared by the League of Nations, are we willing to place our resources, military and naval, at the service of the League force? In the case of Locarno we pledged ourselves definitely to put our whole resources behind the League. How far are we prepared to give the same pledge in respect of all our other obligations to other countries?" Sir Austen Chamberlain himself is in favour of undertaking such a responsibility only in certain selected regions and he fears that it was wrong for Britain to have undertaken a responsibility in regard to Abyssinia which she could not possibly carry out. She ought to refrain from pushing Italy to such lengths as to provoke a war.

The immediate question for consideration is whether a vigorous application of sanctions, including an oil sanction, will in fact lead to war, and whether if

it did so, the British Government should or should not take the risk. The question was raised pointedly in the Commons debate by Miss Rathbone, but no Minister of the Crown attempted to answer it. Miss Rathbone thereupon expressed her own opinion. She said that England was not exposed to war, for all the Mediterranean Powers had pledged their full support to her in case of an unprovoked attack, and mad as Mussolini, he was not so mad as to draw upon himself the combined forces of all these Powers. But she added that even if there be any risk the risk should be taken. "Which is really the greater risk," she asked, "the risk of Italy going to war with Great Britain and with a united League (because nearly all the Mediterranean countries have given assurance of their support if oil sanctions are imposed), or the risk of showing fear before a bully?" The fear that U.S.A. will hamper the oil sanctions by exporting to Italy all the oil she needs is unfounded, for though her new Neutrality Act is unfortunately too weak, still it is clear that President Roosevelt desires to help in checking Mussolini and that he has sufficient power to give the help if he wants. On February 29 he issued a public appeal to American business asking it not to capitalise foreign wars by increasing exports to belligerents. "Suppose that even now," asked Miss Rathbone, "the League were to take the risk of imposing an oil sanction and combined with this action a strong appeal were to be addressed to the United States not to make their action of no avail, is it certain that the United States would turn a deaf ear?" Miss Rathbone answered: It is not at all likely. Let the Anglo-Iranian Company, controlled largely by the British Government, first stop its oil exports to Italy; then the United States will follow suit. Even if this did not happen, it is much better for Britain to impose the oil sanctions and leave the rest to Providence rather than put her tail between her legs and run away from her post of duty.

Reviews.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

MODERN PRODUCTION AMONG BACKWARD PEOPLES. By J. C. GREAVES. (Allen & Unwin.) 22cm. 229p. 10/6.

THE title of this book is likely somewhat to mislead the reader. For it contains no reference to production other than agricultural and does not discuss conditions in all the countries that could, according to the author's definition, be classed backward. As a fact, we feel that the book would have gained both in value and in consistency of exposition if the field surveyed had been even further narrowed down. There is no justification for including China and India and not including Egypt, the Near East, South Eastern Europe or large parts of South America. It is also obvious that the inclusion of China and India unnecessarily complicates the study of those conditions and countries to which the book has special reference. It is equally obvious that such wide generalisations as those regarding primitive labour (pp. 48-50) have, to say the least, a very limited application to Indian or Chinese conditions. And though the author occasionally realises (as on p. 55) the fundamental similarity

in attitudes and problems as between "backward" and "advanced" communities there is in the book to be found some measure of slipshod thinking in racial terms that is evidenced by the following sentence on p. 129. "Most Oriental peoples appear to have acquired from the economic exigencies of their racial history, not only the ability to sustain industrial activity on very low standards of nutrition, but also a commercial shrewdness and bargaining capacity which makes them the successful rivals of almost every other race in shopkeeping and small business undertakings".

We should describe the work as being essentially a study of economic imperialism in relation to tropical agriculture; and as such it is a most excellent production. Chapter I contains an account of origins of colonial trade and describes the methods of the European trader in the earlier period. Chapter II attempts a definition of such terms as "backward people" or "primitive economy." This attempt is not satisfactory. We are doubtful how far the use of such terms in economic analysis is justifiable. And when it is realised that India at the beginning of the nineteenth century was in industrial or commercial organisation almost on the same level as the greater part of Western Europe the difficulty of the framing of a definition of "primitive" which will include India and China will be obvious. Chapter III deals with crops and methods of cultivation. This contains a useful and brief survey of crops and their acreages and brings out the important difference in organisation between peasant and plantation economy and between the subsistence and the money crop.

Chapter IV and V are the most important parts of the book. For they contain an analysis of imperial policies in respect of the exploitation of the native which we consider to be the chief contribution of this study. It is shown that the primary aim of getting hold of larger quantities of tropical products resolved itself into the problem of making the native exert himself to a greater extent than before. And that all the various devices of imperial policy—heavy taxation, forced labour, or compulsory cultivation—are all directed towards this. The native remaining within his traditional economy feels neither the desire to buy foreign wares or produce more for the market. He must, therefore, be compelled to move on in the desired direction. This may be done in the direct manner of the Dutch in Surinam when they cut down "the banana trees which were the source of the independence of the natives;" or in the indirect manner of the British in Africa when they levy a heavy poll tax, to pay which each native must work for white planters for some months in the year. With a wealth of example it is shown how at bottom all policies have fundamentally the same aim, and how though conditions are slightly better than in the days when "development proceeded on the principle that an atrocity was better than an expense" oppression and a disregard for the native's true interests are still universal.

Chapters VI and VII contain an examination from the economic organisation of the plantation and peasant systems. We are doubtful as regards the utility of the wage rate data presented on pages 178-180. The various rates are given in different currencies, a measure of whose equivalence is not given. Further, plantation labour is usually remunerated partly in kind or in privileges (such as a plot for rice cultivation on Assam plantations) which makes a direct comparison of money wage rates deceptive. The cost of living on plantations may also be artificial and hence no idea of the real wage rate could be easily had even if data about money income (and not merely money rates) were available. We, therefore, feel that the conclusions sought to be drawn from this data on pages 180-189 are not well

founded; quite apart from the fact that the real significant comparison is that of the earnings of plantation labour in a country with other labour in the same country and not that of the earning of plantation labour in various countries very differently situated. There is an obvious misprint on p. 179 line 8 where "Asia" should appear instead of "India".

The defects of this work are those almost inevitable in a work attempting to isolate certain general features in a mass of diverse, heterogeneous conditions. Its merits are lucid and concise exposition, a happy choice of illustrative detail and quotations, clear conclusions stated firmly but temperately.

D. R. GADGIL.

PRESENT-DAY RUSSIA.

SOVIET SIDELIGHTS. By M. R. MASANI. (The Congress Socialist Publishing Co., Bombay.) 1936. 20cm. 90p. As. 12.

THIS little brochure is the outcome of the author's second visit to Russia. His first visit was in 1927. In the book before us we get a glimpse of the changed conditions in Russia in all walks of life. Aspects of Russian life which have struck the author's fancy as remarkable are dealt with in this book. Any attempt at a serious study of the Russian experiment is out of the question in a book of this character. Still the book contains valuable information on Russia and is gripping in its interest.

The improvement in the conditions of living of the working classes, of the huge kitchen factories, the collective farms, women's clubs, methods employed for the liquidation of illiteracy, the absence of unemployment, the easy and quick disposal of business in law courts, the convenient rules for marriage and divorce, the children's parks—all these are dealt with in this book with great enthusiasm by the author. In the kitchen factory there is a full-time doctor on its staff whose duty it is to examine those suffering from digestive troubles and prescribe for them special diets. Attached to the kitchen there is a bacteriologist to test meat, fish, milk, butter, etc. and to assess their food value in calories.

In Baku where 99 per cent. of women were illiterate ten years ago 75 per cent. of them are literate now. This achievement is due to a network of women's clubs dotted all over Russia. It is penal in Russia for a husband to prevent his wife from joining a woman's club. There are paid workers who go from house to house enrolling women as members of the club. They are made to attend classes which are made very attractive and instructive. Whenever the husband stands in the way of his wife joining a women's club, he is prosecuted and punished. In this way they have achieved today what amounts to a miracle in the field of women's emancipation in Russia.

It is worthwhile to know that in 1933, 36 million newspapers were sold in Russia. Every year 53,800 books in 90 languages are printed and circulated. It is small wonder that literacy has advanced so very rapidly in Russia. We have it on the authority of Sidney Webb that the output of literature in Russia, newspapers and journals, is greater than that of Germany, England and U. S. A. put together.

Before we conclude we shall give the reader a glimpse of the Moscow Park of culture and rest. "With material and cultural advancement has come physical regeneration. Sports are encouraged. Parks of culture and rest are full." It is not surprising that after seeing these parks Mr. H. G. Wells seems to have observed that "if he were to die and return to

earth once more he knew of no other place where he would rather be born than in the Moscow Park of Culture and Rest." FACTS BY S. R. VENKATA RAMAN.

Yet life in Russia seems to be mechanical with no room for individual enterprise and initiative. There is no personal freedom. We feel that this is the greatest drawback in the Russian life as it is today and if this is to continue for long the good work done so far will only be at the cost of stifling all human emotions and intelligence.

The book is well got up with illustrations.

S. R. VENKATA RAMAN.

FAR EASTERN PORTENTS.

WAR CLOUDS IN THE SKIES OF THE FAR EAST. By TOM IRELAND. (Putnams.) 1935. 21cm. 452p. \$2.75.

THAT the potential dangers in the present situation in the Far East are in many respects as great as those in Europe is a contention that has been put forward by several competent observers and writers. A book such as the one under review is therefore to be welcomed for the admirable way in which its author examines the outstanding facts and analyses the situation as he sees it. Fundamentally, as he rightly observes, it is the pressure of an increasing Japanese population on the means of subsistence.

The most hopeful solution of the overcrowded condition is in the industrialisation of the country. This in turn involves such additional questions as to where to secure raw materials and where to market finished products, the answer to both of which is China, a country that would afford a great market for the finished products made up in Japan from China's own resources (p. 38).

Thus according to the author Japanese penetration into China is a matter of vital need. Japan is therefore opposed to the organisation of the human and economic resources of China by the League of Nations and especially by American and European influences, for a unified and an economically self-sufficient China will prevent Japanese plans of expansion. China's adversity has been Japan's opportunity and Japan has established the puppet Kingdom of Manchukuo taking advantage of China's disunion. The occupation of Manchuria has turned world opinion against her and especially that of the United States. The author says that America-Japanese antagonism is not due to the Manchurian incident only and by tracing Japanese policy since the beginning of the present century he draws pointed attention to the unfriendly attitude of the United States towards her. How Japan was persuaded to give up Southern Manchuria at the end of the Russo-Japanese war in 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt, how at the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 Woodrow Wilson forced Japan to give up Shantung which she had taken from Germany, how at the Washington Conference of 1922 Japan was induced by President Harding to give up a newly consolidated position in Manchuria resulting from the twenty-one demands on China, and how she was forced to accept an inferior naval position of three-fifths of the naval strength of Britain and the United States—all these incidents are treated with fullness and clearness. The author is in favour of Japan laying down an Asiatic Monroe Doctrine and giving the go-by to the Open Door policy in China. If Japan could be trusted to maintain the independence and integrity of China and other Asiatic States, we have no quarrel with the author in giving her a privileged position in the Far East, but knowing as we do Japan's record in Manchuria we feel that her desire to leave the Far East to the Yellow Man is to enable her to expand into the Asiatic mainland and exploit China. The author

admits that Japan had guaranteed the political integrity of China by the Nine Power Treaty and had renounced war as an instrument of national policy by the Kellog-Briand Pact. The occupation of Manchuria was therefore a violation of two international treaties and we are surprised that the author justifies Japanese occupation of Manchuria on the plea of economic necessity. This is what he writes at p. 128:

The necessities of a surplus population cause an overflowing of the boundaries of a nation just as impersonally as an excess of water pours over the confines of a dam or reservoir. Japan cannot in practice be compelled to deliberately reduce its population surplus so as to live up to its signature on treaties.

We do not agree with this strange reasoning of the author. It is the argument of a Mussolini and a Hitler. If Japan's economic needs can be adduced as an argument justifying her occupation of Manchuria, Fascist Italy's war on Ethiopia may also be justified in view of Italy's need for colonies.

The author is hard on the U. S. A. government for not recognising Manchukuo, but we are of opinion that the American attitude is right. It is interesting to observe from pages 154 to 156 that while the United States has been taking a leading part in protesting, France and England have been improving their business in Manchuria!

A great part of the book is devoted to examining the America-Japanese relations and the author fears that with a military clique dominating the Japanese Cabinet and America not recognising Manchukuo and distinctly unfriendly to Japanese aspirations in the Far East, war will break out. We are of opinion that the author is unnecessarily pessimistic. But the author is right when he says that in the event of a war between Japan and America, Soviet Russia in spite of its clash of interests with Japan in Manchuria and Mongolia is not likely to assist the U. S. A., for two reasons. The first is that Soviet Russia is concentrating her attention on the industrial development of her country through the Second Five Year Plan inaugurated in 1933 and that therefore the U. S. A. could not depend for an ally on the Soviet. Secondly, if Russia gave help to the U. S. A. against Japan, Nazi Germany will find it an excuse to expand into the Ukraine.

With regard to the demand of Japan for naval parity with the U. S. A. and Britain instead of the 5:5:3 ratio fixed by the Washington Conference of 1922, the author is in favour of granting it, for the Japanese view the question as a right and an honour. The author also points out that if the U. S. A. with her limited requirements could have naval parity with Britain whose needs are great, Japan should be given naval parity with the U.S.A. But how can the author justify the Japanese demand for naval parity when he admits that Japan wants it for predominance in the Pacific to further her interests and carry out her ambitious plans on the Asiatic mainland? The U.S.A. has not abused her naval parity with Britain but can Japan be trusted to do likewise? We think not.

It is a pity that a book so full of thought-provoking material should contain some serious mistakes. First is the attempt of the author to justify the Japanese point of view in everything. He has such an admiration for virile Japan that he thinks that the Chinese are only fit to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. A more anti-Chinese and pro-Japanese author we have never come across. The author evidently believes in the theory of the survival of the fittest. Secondly, the author is unnecessarily pessimistic when he presumes that war will break out as a result of Americo-Japanese antagonism. Finally, there is too much repetition of ideas. In more than ten places in the book the author repeats the terms of the Nine-Power

Treaty, the economic needs of Japan and the resources of Manchuria and China.

In spite of these serious mistakes, we regard the book as an excellent contribution to a study of Far Eastern problems. Though we do not agree with his views, we congratulate him on his mastery of facts and the admirable way in which he has presented them.

The book has an excellent bibliography and is well got up.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM.

PERILS OF CITIZENSHIP.

PERILS OF CITIZENSHIP. By T. SIVASANKARAM. (Sree Sudarsana Press, Hindupur.) 18cm. 93p. As. 8.

FOR some time past, we have been witnessing the spectacle of political parties making a cat's-paw of local bodies for their own political ends. The start for this objectionable practice was first made in the Madras Presidency by the Justice Party fifteen years ago. Within a short space of time almost all the local boards and municipalities became tools in the hands of that party to carry out its behests and cherished ambitions. Corruption at elections, inefficient administration, party squabbles, civic problems taking ugly communal turns to the detriment of the well-being of the citizens, these have marred the administration of several local boards and municipalities in the Presidency of Madras. With the new orientation of the Congress policy favouring council entry, the Congressmen have tried with a vengeance to capture local boards and municipalities in all parts of India following the policy of Desabhandhu Das and his followers in the Calcutta Corporation. Political parties capturing local bodies and running them on party lines is opposed to all principles of political science. In India Liberal leaders and politicians of the eminence of the Rt. Hon. Sastri have repeatedly warned political parties against converting local bodies and municipalities into "theatres for building up their own influence".

The incidents mentioned in the book under review seek to hold up to public gaze the travesty of civic rights by a group of people wedded to a certain political creed. It is not necessary to go into the details of the incidents described in it as many living personalities in the district of Bellary have played their role in this civic drama. On a careful reading of the book one cannot escape the impression that the incidents referred to seem to be the outcome of personal equations between the author and other members of the board belonging to the Swarajist party rather than the result of political differences. The friction between the author and the members of the Swarajist party when viewed impartially appears to have been due to certain honest differences of opinion over matters of procedure in the conduct of the affairs of the Penukonda Taluk Board, of which the author was President at the time to which the incidents in the book relate. It cannot be said that the reserved and the transferred halves of the Government of Madras joined hands with the Swarajists in perpetrating what the author almost feels an injustice. This matter, it must be observed, formed the subject matter of judicial decisions from the Munsiffs' courts right up to the High Court, the decisions of all of them being unfavourable to the author. Yet we agree with the author that political parties should not convert the local bodies into an auxiliary of the legislative council. But the moral which the author desires to draw from these incidents is strained.

S. R. V. R.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA.

LAWRENCE. THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.

By EDWARD ROBINSON. (Oxford University Press.) 1935. 20cm. 250p. 3/6.

THIS is an able popular biography of a heroic figure. Lawrence of Arabia was a great romantic figure and his adventures in Arabia during the Great War were thrilling and interesting. The story of the life of this interesting personality is told in a brief and straightforward manner in this book. We are sure that this biography will be found extremely useful to college students.

Lawrence's great contribution to the success of the Allied arms was the crushing defeat he inflicted upon the Turks at the head of the Arab rebels. When it is remembered that a short time after his capture of Damascus, the Turks sued for peace and twelve days after the Turks' surrender the Germans signed the Armistice, it is easy to realise the great part played by Lawrence in winning the War.

Lawrence was deputed by the High Command in Cairo to go to Arabia and support Emir Faisal in his fight for independence, for the land bordering on the Red and Mediterranean Seas had been visited by him previously and he possessed firsthand information about it. Lawrence was successful in his mission on account of his great qualities of head and heart. He loved the Arabs and talked their language fluently. He adopted their dress and ways of life so much that the Arabs regarded him as one of their own kith and kin. The affection, regard and respect of the Arabs towards him increased when he took great risks on their behalf. Thus, for instance, when Lawrence made a bold detour of 500 miles to capture Akaba and when he followed this up by making another 150 mile trek across a waterless desert in 42 hours on camel from Akaba to Suez in order to go to Cairo to inform General Clayton of his plans and to ask him to send help to the Arabs—when he did all this, the Arabs worshipped him as a hero.

The book is full of accounts of such adventures. Lawrence enabled the Arabs to become independent. He helped the Arabs and their leader Emir Faisal in driving the Turks out of Arabia and Syria, and when Damascus fell into his hands and he was joined by General Allenby's forces, his work was finished. A few days later the Turks sued for peace and yet a few days after the Armistice was signed. In the course of his Arabian campaigns Lawrence had promised the Arabs Arabia as well as Syria. But at the Peace Conference Syria was left in the hands of France as a mandated territory. This was a sore disappointment to him and he felt it so keenly that when the King summoned him to confer rewards on him for his distinguished services, he declined the honours. But this was the weak side of his character. Lawrence felt that he would be regarded as a liar and a traitor by the Arabs. But we honestly feel that he had no business to make such profuse promises. After all a Peace Settlement is the result of a compromise of conflicting claims and Lawrence should not have felt that he was let down badly.

It is the life of this great hero that Edward Robinson narrates in the book before us. The author has done full justice to his subject and we are sure that this short biography of Lawrence will serve to stimulate and inspire many a young mind. The book contains very good illustrations and a map to indicate Lawrence's campaigns in Arabia and Syria.

M. V. S.

TALKS WITH A LUNATIC.

MAN THE MADMAN OR TALKS WITH A LUNATIC. By JOHN NIBB. (Elliot Stock.) 20cm. 126p. 3/6.

THE book under review contains a series of rapid dialogues between a weak-willed egotist and an unsober Hosea with a disagreeable knack for denouncing the scientific and other activities of man. Full of puerile diatribes, interspersed with half-baked good sense is the entire chat by the wayside, in which the person who sets the ball rolling fares ignobly at the hands of Theodore, the conversational bully, who carries his own point. For instance, our sceptic who distrusts progress of things along scientific lines betrays his love of the uncommon and the capricious. He loathes petrol and all that it does. For him it is a source of evil and the cause of much slaughter of human life. That it is poor logic to say so is proved by the fact that if nothing else, petrol is on the way completely to relieve draught animals of the torture of their existence. Much is being done to minimise the loss of life caused by the petrol-driven engine, but after all is said and done, the manner of human fatality is outside our control. One might as well level a hospital down to the ground because men die in spite of it, as destroy a motor car which inadvertently kills an incautious pedestrian.

For all the unconvincing things our overbearing conversationalist says, we are obliged to agree with his decision to reduce the noise of the movement of machines to the minimum or in the alternative to convert it into a musical orchestration. Speed is not so objectionable to the rest of mankind as it is to our Theodore, for the reason that the world is narrower on account of it. The slow coach may be a contemplative and soul-delightful mode of travel, but it is as unsuitable as a cave is for dwelling.

We are at one with Theodore when he utters such a truism as India is painfully familiar with. "Often enough what is termed justice is not just. In fact sometimes the law is more awful than lawful."

His views on dictatorship make amusing reading. According to him, even democracy is dictatorship, which is so in a sense. But there is a world of difference between jail diet being forced down one's throat and eating the food imperfectly cooked by our own hands. Curiously enough, Theodore is conventional and unconventional in the same breath. As an economic thinker Theodore lacks depth, shallow wisdom being his strong point. He is of the opinion that "economic nationalism is dangerous" which is giving a sound principle of broadbased self-sufficiency a bad name. Then again Theodore outruns discretion when he makes the statement that "there is ample land in the world for bigger populations than the world will ever have." The purely territorial shortage of commodities resulting from economic nationalism is less dangerous than market-hunting international trade.

Theodore will find the whole world in agreement with him in so far as he is bitterly opposed to racial or national "bombasts." In other respects it must be said that there is no intrinsic evil in things other than what follows the prostitution of the good that there is in the world. The sciences and the arts of modern life are not to be accounted unprogressive and sinful (any more than the past centuries be regarded as holy) all because men at times forget to observe the distinction between the sacred and the profane.

A book of such ordinary merit is fit for commonplace minds.

— K. VENUGOPAL RAO.

SHORT NOTICES

THE PRINCIPLES OF CONTRACEPTION. By JOAN MALLESON. (Gollancz.) 1935. 20cm. 160p. 4/6.

THIS book bears the sub-title "A Handbook for General Practitioners" and is intended to help doctors who often find now-a-days that they know less about birth-control than their patients. It contains a full discussion of the various methods advocated by experts, with the technique employed by the author, who rightly emphasizes the point that the proper methods do not do any harm, nor cause sterility. "Of a hundred and sixteen women who had been using contraceptives for periods varying from one to five years, a hundred and thirteen became pregnant either immediately or within a few months' time after they discontinued their precautions. (Walworth and East London Clinic)". It is however true that a woman's chances of conception decrease with advancing age and this may sometimes lead to the impression that contraceptives lead to sterility if they have been used for long years. The author, like many others, recommends condoms combined with a soluble pessary as a safe and simple method, in spite of the fact that many men find it impossible to use one, and many consider it equivalent to masturbation. Besides, a method which prevents all contact of the two organs can be hardly considered physiologically advisable.

Some writers have recently advocated the use of the sponge instead of the occlusive cap. The sponge may be a cheap method, but in no way comparable in efficacy to the cap. The author says: "In actual fact, even when chosen and fitted by an expert, a sponge will seldom prove a satisfactory method of occluding the cervix."

He also mentions the Graefenberg's Ring and rightly condemns it. I have known practitioners here trying to fix these without sufficient knowledge and getting into trouble, which may sometimes be very serious. Even with experts, they have not given good results and have proved dangerous in some cases.

R. D. KARVE

A REPORT ON THE BIHAR EARTHQUAKE. By W. B. BRETT. (Superintendent, Government Printing, Patna.) 1935. 25cm. 101p. Rs. 1-12-0.

THIS is an official account of the terrible earthquake that devastated a large part of Bihar on 15th January 1934. It gives a detailed description of the nature and extent of the damage done to life and property of this densely populated, fertile but poor province. After the worst had happened measures for immediate relief were devised so as to relieve the panic-stricken population in the form of salvage of the living and dead and those trapped under houses and buildings that had collapsed, first aid to the sick and the wounded, provision of food and clothing, police protection, restoration of communications, etc.

Subsequent to this the Bihar Government carried out a close survey of the areas affected with a view to ascertain the causes and effects of this terrible disaster. The report describes in detail the efforts of the Government to solve the various problems that were confronting them. The chief among them, the report points out, were the problem of the selection of safer areas, finance and construction of urban and rural dwellings, demolition, repair and construction of public works, restoration of roads and bridges, levelling and improvement of the soil damaged by sand deposits and water-logging, the provision and improvement of the drinking water supply; and last

but not the least, the problem of marketing of the sugarcane crop. Due to sudden dislocation of many of the sugarcane crushing factories, the standing crops could not be crushed.

The report should have given a more detailed account of private relief which was administered in co-operation with the Government. The work of the central relief committee, e. g., under the leadership of Babu Rajendra Prasad, who was released unconditionally immediately after the disaster and despite illness laboured hard to relieve distress, certainly deserved more space than has been allotted to it.

N. M. J.

A THOUSAND MILES UP IN THE AMAZON.

By ARDASER SORABJEE N. WADIA. (Dent.)
25cm, 1935. 75p. 8/6.

IN the volume before us the author takes the reader about a thousand miles up the river Amazon, which for so long has remained almost a mystery to most people. After reading the book one still retains that impression. Amazon and the region surrounding it is really mysterious, and yet full of charm and surprises to those who are adventurous and fond of travel. The accounts of the various journeys and the voyage are quite thrilling and the reader cannot put down the book till he has finished it. Prof. Wadia's style is excellent. He has been described by another reviewer as "a master of the English language." He fully merits the compliment.

The sixteen photographs in colotype included in the book add very much to its attractiveness. The printing is neat and the appearance of the book pleasing. It must however be added that for the number of pages the volume has become rather too bulky and a little too costly. A cheaper edition will, it may be hoped, find a better sale.

L. V. GOGATE.

DIVORCE AND ITS PROBLEMS. By E. S. P.

HAYNES and DEREK WALKER-SMITH. (Methuen.) 1935. 20cm. 183p. 6/-

THIS book contains a historical survey of the question of divorce and a full discussion of arguments for and against. It is written by two authors who are agreed on all important points except on divorce by mutual consent. Mr. Haynes presents the arguments 'for' and Mr. Walker-Smith 'against'. The book considers the necessity for a change in the divorce law, the religious influences and the changing views of marriage which have led to the present attitudes on the question. Incidentally it gives much interesting information, for instance about the matrimonial adventures of Henry VIII, who found it easier to behead an unwanted wife than to divorce her. The Catholics consider marriage indissoluble, but it can, always be annulled by the Pope. Anne Boleyn's marriage was declared null because Henry had had sexual intercourse with her sister Mary; in the case of Anne of Cleves, the excuse was non-consummation, and so on. Mr. Haynes makes out a strong case for divorce by mutual consent, which would save people from preparing evidence of adultery, which is the only ground admitted in England at present. He says, "Divorce by mutual consent has existed in the past without dissolving the foundations of society.... Mr. Joseph McCabe

has conclusively proved that Roman laxity was no worse than mediæval or modern laxity", and he quotes the following from Mr. David Alec Wilson, once an Indian judge: "In Japan marriage is more common, divorces more numerous, and venereal diseases less prevalent than anywhere else.... The freedom of divorce is one of the reasons why the yellow races are tending to supplant the whites—they breed better".

The authors opine that Cruelty, desertion for a certain period, as well as a long prison sentence should be considered sufficient reasons for divorce, while one of them favours and the other opposes divorce by mutual consent. In any case, anybody interested in the subject will find a complete discussion in this book.

R. D. KARVE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

I. L. O. STUDIES AND REPORTS.

- Report Submitted to the Secretary-General by the Director of the Section for Communications and Transit, Secretary of the Council Committee, on his Mission in China (January--May 1935.) (C. 410, M. 206, 1935-5.) 27cm. 50p.
- Considerations on the Present Evolution of Agricultural Protectionism. (C. 178, M. 97, 1935, II. B. 7.) 27cm. 49p.
- Remarks on the Present Phase of International Economic Relations. (C. 344, M. 174, 1935, II. B. 11.) 26cm. 52p.
- Organisation of Juvenile Courts and the Results Attained Hitherto. (C. 484, M. 260, 1935, IV. 5.) 24cm. 151p.
- The Housing Policy in the Netherlands. By H. Van Der Kaa. (C. H. 1165. (a). 1935, III. 4.) 24cm. 102p.
- Report on the Physiological Bases of Nutrition by the Technical Commission appointed by the Health Committee. (C. H. 1197, 1935, III. 6.) 24cm. 19p.
- Estimated World Requirements of Dangerous Drugs in 1936. (C. 429, M. 220, 1935, XI. 9.) 32cm. 78p.
- Statistical Year-Book of the Trade in Arms and Ammunition. (C. 264, M. 134, 1935, IX. 7.) 32cm. 326p.
- Records of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. Minutes of the National Defence Expenditure Commission, Feb. 27th, 1932-June 3rd, 1933. (1935, IX. 8.) 32cm. 106p.
- Records of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. Minutes of the Land Commission, Feb. 27th-June 6th, 1932. (1935, IX. 9.) 32cm. 128p.
- Dispute between Ethiopia and Italy—Memorandum by the Italian Government on the Situation in Ethiopia, II. Documents. (C. 340. (a). M. 171. (a). 1935, VII. 13.) 32cm. 161p. and Annex.
- Dispute between Ethiopia and Italy—Memorandum by the Italian Government on the Situation in Ethiopia, I. Report. (C. 340, M. 171, 1935, VII. 11.) 32cm. 63p.
- Permanent Mandates Commission—Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Session Held at Geneva from June 3rd to 18th, 1935, including the Report of the Commission to the Council. (C. 251, M. 123, 1935, VI. A. 1.) 32cm. 252p.
- Permanent Mandates Commission—Minutes of the Twenty-Eighth Session held at Geneva from October 17th to November 2nd, 1935 including the Report of the Commission to the Council. (C. 439, M. 228, 1935, VI. A. 2.) 32cm. 216p.