

reply mainly to opponents of such factory legislation as applies to women only. Miss Black argues that there is no ground for the assertion that men trade unionists have tried to regulate the hours of women's employment in order to protect themselves against competition. She also contends that legal restrictions have not had the effect of reducing the number of women employed in regulated trades.

The authors confine themselves too much to ground which has been covered before to make the book of special interest to readers who are already acquainted with the history of factory legislation. But they put their case temperately and persuasively; and will doubtless be rewarded by meeting with less opposition in future.

An appendix contains a short list of books recommended, and there is also a defective index.

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DEMOCRACY VERSUS SOCIALISM; a Critical Examination of Socialism as a remedy for social injustice and an exposition of the Single Tax Doctrine. By Max Hirsch (Melbourne). Pp. xxxiv., 481. London: Macmillan & Co.

Mr. Hirsch begins by stating that "Revolting against the injustice of existing social arrangements and the evils thence resulting, preferring the risk of failure to ignoble acquiescence, the advocates of Socialism are, not unnaturally, deaf to merely negative criticism." So our author proposes to demonstrate the worthlessness of Socialism and to show what is equally effective and can be set in its place. Mr. Hirsch's intentions are admirable, and all sensible people will agree that those who want a thing very much are more likely to listen to advisers who can make proposals as well as criticize the proposals of others. But our author will not seem to the Socialists and many others to have demonstrated convincingly the fruitfulness of his method. Moreover, it must be borne in mind, the impartial critic gets a more unbiassed hearing than the rival partisan. The first five parts of the book are devoted to an examination of Socialism, and although at times the author seems to the reviewer to be a little ungenerous in representing the opinions of his opponents and to press his arguments in a way which tells that he too has a scheme which he thinks worth two of any other kind, yet on the whole

the argument is well stated and to the point. The author is not lacking in the keenness and knowledge which makes criticism incisive. But the reviewer feels sure that very many Socialists would attack with as much zest as Mr. Hirsch some of the proposed institutions which fall under his lash, for instance the following which are said to be involved in Socialism:—abandonment of separate family homes, early separation of children and parents, and transference of the former to the care of the State. Further, if Mr. Hirsch had projected a complete account and criticism of Socialism we should have complained that he had neglected to classify the different kinds of socialism and to examine the conditions of the differences; but as his primary object is to weaken the socialism which works in the public his account is on the whole satisfactory, though he errs in representing the proposals of modern socialists as making up far more of a finished and finite—not to say crude—system than they actually do. Certainly he has taken the trouble to make himself well acquainted with the utterances of those socialists who have the public ear. The greatest weakness of this book, in the opinion of the reviewer, comes out in Part V. which deals with the single tax. Few social thinkers will be able to go with the author either in his justification of the confiscation of rents or in his account of the economic effects of the single tax. As regards the first question Mr. Hirsch falls back for support upon “natural rights.” “Freedom to use the earth is the indispensable condition for the exercise of man’s faculties and the maintenance of his life. Hence the right to the use of the earth is a natural right, the denial of which involves the denial of the right to the exercise of any faculty, that is, the denial of the right to live” (p. 228). But does it?—meaning by “freedom to use the earth” the absence of proprietary rights over the soil. Here the argument breaks down, and all the author proves is that if the legal rights of property were of a nature which is quite inconceivable, and if social actions were determined as they are not, people might be forced to starve though willing to work. But what does that demonstration profit? It was necessary to find a very forcible argument to meet claims for compensation—hence land-holding is made closely analogous to slave-holding—but there is no doubt that in straining after this argument our author over-reaches himself and loses his foothold. Again, while admitting that Mr. Hirsch displays a good knowledge of economic science and

argues with ingenuity, the reviewer must point out that the author would get small support for his contention that a tax on land values "would lower rents, induce a more efficient use of land, increase the demand for labor, and therefore tend to increase wages" (p. 380)—at any rate in an appreciable degree—and how, when at its maximum, the tax has to result in "an enormous consumption and production of wealth, an illimitable demand for labor and a distribution of wealth which, denying reward without service rendered, would secure to every one a reward equal to the value of the service rendered by him," it passes my wit to comprehend.

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PUBLIC RELIEF OF THE POOR. By Thomas Mackay. London: John Murray, Albermarle St., 1901. Pp. vi., 214.

This book consists of six lectures given to an audience consisting mainly of those engaged in actual work amongst the poor; a fact which greatly heightens their value from an educational point of view. For their author maintains for them that their treatment of the subject is theoretical rather than practical; and of all difficult tasks that of inducing people already submerged in practical work to pause and consider the principles of what they are doing, is the most difficult.

But though the treatment is mainly theoretical, it is theory based upon a most exhaustive consideration of experience, past and present, and in that sense may be said to be practical in the highest degree. And it is practical also in another sense, for as the author maintains in his preface, if the theory (the possibility of dispauperization) be once established, the details of administration present very little difficulty. This follows from the view that pauperism is an artificial condition, engendered or maintained by institutions expressly devised for its support. The Poor Law is here dealt with as a survival, perhaps rather a revival, of the feudal status, with respect to the poorest section of the population; and it is very helpful in considering the subject to have clearly placed before us the insignificance of this artificial support to the working classes in comparison with the great economic forces upon which their material prosperity is really based. Perhaps readers of this journal will hesitate to accept the *obiter dic-*