

living on nothing? Why is all Europe overcrowded, overtaxed, overworked, for the splendid few who pass their time, as the old Roman nobles did, between the social seasons of the cities and the baths? Why do the workmen of America permit conditions to continue by which the wealth they produce centers in Wall street and Fifth avenue? These questions are as hard to answer to-day as it is to account for the subservency of the ancient lowly, about whom we know so little.

Perhaps a fuller study of the history of the working classes in ancient times would help to solve the problem, or would at least teach some useful lessons. For the people have had a history as well as the princes. To tell this history, so far as it can be delved out of ancient records and inscriptions, has been the task of the author of a book which deserves wide reading and earnest study ("The Ancient Lowly, a History of the Ancient Working People," by C. Osborne Ward. Purdy Publishing company, Chicago, \$2.50).

If the book should have no other effect than to instruct and influence the writers of ancient history for schools, it would serve a most useful purpose. The histories of Greece and Rome that are studied in the schools almost invariably belittle, or misinterpret, or ignore, the episodes that were evident struggles of the masses of producers against their oppressors.

The great struggle of Spartacus, for example, could hardly be dealt with in the usual superficial fashion by anyone who had read the chapter on his magnificent uprising as told in this book. Here we are able to see what gave strength to his movement, and made it far more than the outburst of a group of bold gladiators. We can see that, like the rash conspiracy of Catiline and the close-following collapse of the government with the almost necessary dictatorship of Caesar, it was the fruit of the failure to heed the warnings and reforms of the Gracchi. Spartacus became the champion of the oppressed working classes and labor unions of Italy, and but for the jealousies that followed the successes of the revolutionists, the subsequent course of Roman history might have been quite different.

Mr. Ward's task was one of great difficulty, and he has deserved the sincere thanks of all readers who recognize the struggle for freedom and for equal rights as the supreme problem of the historian. His book attempts to cover the period from the earliest times to the adoption of Christianity by Constantine. He has spared no pains to find out all the facts from all available sources that would throw light on these early centuries, and this is the chief value of the work. His reasonings may not be always acceptable, and his conclusions may be at times forced. He seems not to have sufficient faith in the ethics of real

democracy. But he has told a great number of most valuable facts, which he has been careful to back up by foot-note references.

The book is interesting from the sheer force of its facts. The writer is by no means a gifted narrator. He repeats himself, and does not always tell things in order. Sometimes he is guilty of an inversion that seems like ignorance; as when, speaking of the gladiatorial games, he says: "Commodus upheld them, Domitian extended them"—as if he did not know that Domitian lived a hundred years before Commodus. But the style is in the main earnest, plain and satisfactory.

Whatever fault may be found with the book, however this or that critic may object to the author's opinions, no one can deny the value and importance of the work. It deserves better proof-reading and better printing and binding. The foot-notes are here and there hardly legible. But the main body of the text is in fairly clear type, and no one should complain at paying the price for these 650 pages as they are.

J. H. DILLARD.

THE GERMAN STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY.

Poultney Bigelow, school-boy chum of the Emperor of Germany through an accident of association, but radical democrat by deliberate choice, tells in the third volume of his "History of the German Struggle for Liberty" (New York and London: Harper & Bros. Price, \$2.25 net) of the stirrings of democracy in the womb of the German nation during those pregnant years from Waterloo to '48.

To read this volume is to understand, without further explanation, why the Emperor and Mr. Bigelow are not the chums they were when there were two lives between the one and his crown, and the other had not yet begun to write democratic history. Yet there is nothing of obtrusive partisanship about Mr. Bigelow's work. The book fully justifies his description of its contents when in the preface he writes: "We are not here to apologize for democracy, much less to glorify monarchy. We have in view nothing more ambitious than to explain, as well as we can, how a most loyal, monarchical, thrifty and peaceful people could in the short time of which this volume treats become so infuriated as to assist in shaking the foundations of nearly every European throne, of driving the late Emperor William to seek refuge in a foreign country, and of compelling the ruling Hohenzollern to take off his hat to the Berlin mob."

The author's apology for telling much of this story in biographical form will be cordially accepted by every reader of the book; for, instead of a lifeless chronicle of the automatic movements of official marionettes, it thus

becomes a vital narrative of the daily doings of real folks—a story of the heartbeats of a people. Conspicuous among these biographies is that of Friedrich Ludwig Jahn—"Turnvater Jahn," or, "as we might say, the tourney father,"—whose work and martyrdom Mr. Bigelow credits with giving impulse to the German sentiment that precipitated the revolution of 1848.

Fritz Reuter, Carl Sand, Kossuth, Mazzini, Strauss, Robert Blum, Lasalle and Heinrich Simon, are among the other characters whose life story enters into the great struggle that Mr. Bigelow describes. It is to be regretted that Mr. Bigelow could not have done the same justice to the much maligned memory of Thomas Paine that he has done to these Germans; but, unhappily, in a gratuitous mention of this American patriot he adopts the estimate of the enemies of democracy. His references to Henry George are conceived in a better spirit.

One of the most interesting episodes the author narrates is the free trade revolution of 1818—over a quarter of a century before Cobden's triumph in England—which freed the Prussian states from the exasperating commercial tariffs that separated their people; and Americans will be especially interested in the explanation of German migration to the United States from what is, to them, as a rule, the novel viewpoint of emigration. Most of our appreciation of this subject is from the viewpoint of immigration.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—"The Foundation of all Reform. A Guide to Health, Wealth and Freedom. A popular treatise on the diet question." By Otto Carque. Chicago: Kosmos Publishing Co., 765 N. Clark St.; London: L. N. Towler & Co., 7 Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus. This little book is a plea for fruit diet, and is scientific in method.

—"The Guide to Immortality; or the Child's First Lesson in Spiritual Science." By Dr. Georjean Miller. Girard, Kan., Press of Appeal to Reason.

PAMPHLETS.

Dr. Edwin Taylor Shelly, of Atchison, a leading old-school physician of north-eastern Kansas, who gratuitously distributes to his obstetric patients a sensible little pamphlet of "Suggestions for the Expectant Mother," takes occasion therein to criticize the common notion that birthmarks are caused by nervous shocks to mothers. There is no connection whatever, he writes, "between the nervous system of the mother and that of her unborn child, and the mother can therefore transmit no nervous shock to the child."

In anticipation of the return to hard times, and especially as a reply to the criticism that it is due to trades unionism, the Chicago Federation of Labor has issued a symposium (price, 10 cents) on "The Cause of Industrial Panics." This pamphlet, prepared under the supervision of a committee composed of T. P. Quinn, R. G. Wall and C. V. Peterson, contains portraits of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Mr. G. Schardt, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and its contributors are Samuel Gompers, James Duncan, Henry D. Lloyd, Frank K. Foster, Sir Charles Dilke, Ernest H. Crosby, Lawson Purdy, Lyman J. Gage, E. W. Bemis, Kler Hardy, Louis F. Post, George Francis Train, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, John Burns, Eugene V. Debs, Lucien Saniel,