

state power is inadequate. These views are important as undoubtedly voicing the opinions of a great many persons, but, as stated, are lacking in definiteness and scientific precision.

J. M. M.

The Solution of the Child Labor Problem. By SCOTT NEARING.
(New York: Moffat, Yard & Company, 1911. Pp. viii, 145.)

This compact little volume "The Solution of the Child Labor Problem" makes a stirring contribution toward that solution. The author's sparkling style, and the constructive substance of the book, distinguishes it favorably from the dreary platitudes of sympathizers without knowledge and of experts without literary style from whom the cause of the child toilers has suffered severely in recent years.

Some proposals of the author are already in force elsewhere, as the longer education of boys in the continuation schools of Munich and other German cities. Others are the subject matter of active agitation, under the leadership of Mrs. Sidney Webb, by the advocates of the minority report of the English Poor Law Commission published in 1909. Still others are in force in some countries and the object of legislative consideration in our own. Thus minimum wage boards have existed in Australasia since 1893, and in England since 1910. Bills dealing with minimum wage boards have been considered by the legislatures of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Massachusetts. Their advocates have been in each case chiefly persons interested also in child labor reform.

A friendly critic may, perhaps be forgiven for observing a slightly Milesian tendency to hit the wrong head when Dr. Nearing accuses the child labor reformers of the sins of omission and commission of the educators. Nor has the writer, in a quarter century of effort for child labor reform, either experienced or beheld the ecstasies referred to in Dr. Nearing's unproved and unprovable assertion that "While the reformer goes into ecstasies over the statistics of decreasing child labor, the victims of the decrease either run the streets, go hungry or suffer from both these evils." In the few cases in which there are trustworthy statistics of decreasing child labor, they are accompanied by an increase in school attendance in the grades stipulated by the combined compulsory school law and child labor law. This has been

true for some years in Chicago, and in New York. There are even some encouraging symptoms in recent months in Dr. Nearing's own state of Pennsylvania.

FLORENCE KELLEY.

The History of Parliamentary Taxation in England. By SHEPARD ASHMAN MORGAN, M. A. Williams College Prize Essay, No. 2. (New York: Moffat, Park & Co., 1911. Pp. xvii, 317.)

In his essay on Parliamentary taxation in England Mr. Morgan has not had the opportunity of showing what he can do in the way of original historical research. The essay, which runs to barely 60,000 words, covers in the briefest possible manner the history of the laying of taxes by king, or by Parliament from the earliest Saxon times to the reign of Charles II. It is obvious that centuries must be covered in the most cursory way, and the chief merit of the work can only be exhibited in Mr. Morgan's selection of the most vital facts. From this point of view the work is well done. Mr. Morgan traces the origin of representation in the House of Commons to the need of Edward I for money and to his great discovery that a tax levied by consent and with the approval of those who had to pay it, was more profitable than a tax levied by the absolute power of the sovereign. He also shows how this germ of power of the Commons was preserved, and how it grew and extended; until the attempt of the Stuarts to take it from the House of Commons resulted in the overthrow of Charles I, and the reestablishment of the principle, after the interval of the Restoration and the reigns of Charles II and James II, on a statutory basis in the Bill of Rights of 1689. Mr. Morgan has been highly successful in bringing out the salient fact of the history. He has wisely presented these facts with some fulness, in spite of the small space at his command and the vast period he had to cover; and he has thereby produced a readable little treatise which may well serve as an introduction to the study either of Parliamentary institutions or of taxation in its fuller meaning.