

Must we conclude from this then, that there is no hardship in the actual Means Test which deprives the son or father of his earnings by making him keep his unemployed relative, but only in the idea of being subjected to an investigation? If this is what the Pilgrim Committee means then it is sheer nonsense. The hardship brought about by the Means Test is not simply psychological but physical, and accentuates the very conditions of poverty which they themselves describe in their book.

A third of the book is devoted to details about existing social service centres and unemployed clubs, and repeated references to the need for encouraging the unemployed to make the best use of their "leisure time." Leisure is a strange word to couple up with starvation.

The investigators found that the unemployed frequently spoke of their connections with the National Unemployed Workers' Movement and they found that "one or two had dropped out because they did not think it any use, but the majority of those who spoke about it evidently valued it." The opinion of the investigators, however, is that "the tendency of such organisations is with the younger men at least to encourage them not get to work." I presume that this deduction is made from the fact that the National Unemployed Workers' Movement spurns charity and demands that the State make proper provision for the unemployed. But in striking contrast to the inaction of charity organisations, the National Unemployed Workers' Movement constantly agitates for the provision of work at trade union wages, and a little enquiry into its literature or a talk with the branch committees would have readily revealed this. But there are none so blind as those who don't want to see.

From reading this book I gather the impression that there must have been definite restriction imposed upon the scope of the study; anxiety not to defend the powers that be, and perhaps a good deal of editorial blue-pencilling. The investigators must surely have formed more definite opinions on the subject of unemployment than have been stated in this book, and I would ask them to follow up with a second volume in which they "let themselves go" so that we may have a more concrete and fundamental treatment of the subject.

WAL HANNINGTON.

### SHORTER NOTICES.

*A Century of City Government* by Shena D. Simon, M.A. (Allen and Unwin Ltd., 12s. 6d., 450 pp.)

Published during the Manchester Centenary year this book is a history of a century of City Government (1838-1938). It traces the way in which local government services have developed and claims to be the first attempt to look at a century of municipal development from the point of view of one representative authority, that of a large industrial city.

*Materialism and Empirio-Criticism* by V. I. Lenin. (Lawrence and Wishart, 10s. 6d., 384 pp.)

THIS FAMOUS WORK OF Lenin on Marxist philosophy, Vol. XIII of the Collected Works, which has been out of print for some time, is now reprinted in a new translation following the Russian edition of 1936. The new English text has been carefully compared and checked with the Russian original by a number of Marxist authorities. Completely revised, edited and annotated this is the only edition authorised by the Lenin Institute, Moscow.

*Imperialism : A Study* by J. A. Hobson. (Allen and Unwin, 8s. 6d., 386 pp.)

J. A. Hobson's well-known study of imperialism was published in 1902 and again in a revised edition in 1905. This is a third edition entirely revised and with a twenty-five page introduction by the author.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Japan's Gamble in China.* Freda Uteley. (Secker and Warburg.) 6s. 302 pp.

*The Plot Against the Soviet Union and World Peace.* (Lawrence and Wishart.) 1s. 187 pp.

*The Machinery of Socialist Planning.* G. D. H. Cole. (Hogarth Press.) 2s. 6d. 80 pp.

*Power and Glory.* Karel Capek. (Allen and Unwin.) 3s. 6d. 97 pp.

*Facing Mount Kenya.* Jomo Kenyatta. (Secker and Warburg.) 12s. 6d. 339 pp.

*American Testament.* Joseph Freeman. (Gollancz.) 16s. 576 pp.

*The Science of Society.* J. Rumney, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Duckworth.) 3s. 6d. 125 pp.

*The United Front.* Georgi Dimitrov. (Lawrence and Wishart.) 6s. 287 pp.

*Peace with the Dictators ?* Sir Norman Angell. (Hamish Hamilton.) 7s. 6d. 328 pp.

*Economics.* A General Textbook for Students. Frederick Benham. (Pitman.) 7s. 6d. 488 pp.

*Reform Under Fire.* Social Progress in Spain, 1931-1938. Margaret Stewart. (New Fabian Research Bureau.) 6d. 24 pp.