

formance; and it is to be regretted that it is marred by frequent instances of bad style. He speaks of "advancing a fact" (page 9), of "suppressing a theoretical system" (page 12), of "law" as "forming a conception" (page 14), of "a strong view" (page 20), of "steps in economic dependence" being "well advanced" (page 68), and of "land" as "originating in custom" (page 83). And that note of provinciality—the undue deference to authority and current opinion—is not as absent as one might wish: there is certainly a little too much about the "trend of opinion," and "the judgment of" X and Y. It does but little good in an investigation of this kind to be told what eminent authority A says of the presumably rash person B, unless we are given the grounds of his judgment.

W. J. ASHLEY.

*Princípios de Finanças*, gusendo as Prelecções feitas pelo lente da Faculdade de Direito. ANTONIO DOS SANCTOS PEREIRA JARDIM. Quarta edição. Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1891.—8vo, 395 pp.

*Tratado de Hacienda Publica y Examen de la Española*. Por JOSÉ M. PIERNAS-HURTADO. Cuarta edición. Madrid, Ginés Hernández, 1891.—8vo, 540, 677 pp.

The most significant fact of recent scientific development is its growing international character. Not only does the modern economist find it necessary to draw his facts from a wider field than that of his own country, but if he desires to keep abreast of the modern movement he also finds it incumbent on him to read many languages and to note the advances in theory in widely distant countries. In no domain is this more true than in the science of finance. I have had occasion recently to point out some very remarkable studies by Dutch writers. Attention is now called to the works of a Spaniard and a Portuguese.

The Portuguese work of Pereira Jardim interests us more from the standpoint of fiscal practice than of fiscal theory. Not that theoretic discussions are absent or without ability; but as the work is a posthumous one, based on lectures delivered several years ago, the field of discussion does not include the newer theories of the last decade or two. Leroy-Beaulieu and Parieu among the French, Rau and Jacob among the Germans are the latest foreign authors discussed. Pereira Jardim does not really add anything to the theory of the science. But the history and description of Portuguese public

finance, and the continual references to the inter-relations between Portuguese law and economics will be welcome to the student of comparative finance.

On the other hand the two-volume work of Professor Piernas-Hurtado of Madrid is interesting in many ways. Like the Italians and the Dutch, but unlike the French, the Spanish writers have profited by recent German investigation, and treat many of the problems from the newer point of view. But Piernas-Hurtado, while quoting liberally from Wagner and the other Germans, preserves his own individuality and does not fear to take issue with them occasionally. We notice this not alone in questions of theory, like that of progressive taxation, but in problems of practical politics, like the governmental assumption of railways.

The introductory chapter, on the history of the science of finance, is valuable as calling attention to numerous Spanish writers, not alone of the seventeenth century, when Spanish literature was still almost at the flood, but also of more recent times. The author points out the causes of the essentially individualistic trend of the nineteenth-century Spaniards, and the socialistic reaction of more recent years. The general features of the development are the same in Spain as in almost all the other European countries. Like some of his German models, Piernas-Hurtado devotes a number of chapters to the conception of the state, economic life in general and the economics of the state in particular. He looks on public expenses as public consumption, but, like pretty much all other writers on public expenses, has almost nothing but platitudes to give us here. When we come to public revenues, however, it is different. He classifies public revenues according as they arise from gifts, fiscal domain, public works, fiscal monopolies, taxes, eminent domain, fines and escheats, and devotes several chapters to each of the important classes. The most noteworthy point in his treatment of taxes is his view as to the basis of taxation. He discusses in turn expense, income and property, and finds each of these essentially defective. The really equitable basis of taxation he finds to be faculty, or the economic position of the individual as shown by the "liquid assets" (*el impuesto sobre los haberes líquidos*). By this term he wishes to denote the means of the individual as conditioned by his needs, or the proportion between income and property on the one hand, and the claims made upon him by expenses on the other. Piernas-Hurtado thus simply attempts to put into plain language the marginal utility theory of taxation, as developed by recent Dutch and German

writers. He confesses that this alone will not remedy social evils, that it is not susceptible of an exact mathematical computation, and that it may give rise to arbitrariness; but he maintains that the other suggested bases of taxation disclose the same or greater defects. Regard for the individual position of the contributor is the really important aim to be kept in view. The vagueness of this test as a practical programme of taxation will at once strike the reader; but Piernas-Hurtado is content to leave the discussion in the field of theory.

Later on, in treating of the various classes of taxation, he has many good and practical suggestions to make. The whole of his second volume in fact is devoted to the history and criticism of the state, local and colonial public finance of Spain, and he clears up much that Parieu and other writers have failed to explain. Like so many of the continental tax reformers, he sees the greatest promise of improvement in the substitution of direct for indirect taxes; and he devotes a considerable portion of the work to the proposed adjustment of the Spanish public revenues to the principles of uniformity and universality. Several chapters on the theories and practice of public credit, and especially on the budget and financial administration, conclude a work whose open-mindedness, clearness and wide range of view entitle it to an honorable place in the list of text-books of finance.

E. R. A. S.

*Free Exchange.* Papers on Political and Economical Subjects, including chapters on the Law of Value and Unearned Increment. By the late SIR LOUIS MALLET, C. B. London, Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1891. — xxiii, 356 pp.

In these days a declaration of absolute faith in individualism and *laissez faire* possesses a pleasing pungency. Sir Louis Mallet, comrade of Cobden and statesman of the ultra-liberal school, never swerved from *Manchesterthum*. What to others was the policy of free trade was to him the axiom of "free exchange," a principle identical with that of private property. We gather from his son's preface that he endured factory laws and did not "discourage" operations on the "Residuum," but "his general attitude was one of distrust of all restrictive and protective legislation." He saw no other thrall than the law, and reports of labor commissions could not convince him that legal freedom would ever mean actual serfdom or slavery.