

physiocrats. Incidentally, M. Gaudemet shows that Galiani's recall from his diplomatic post at Paris, which immediately followed the appearance of his celebrated letters on the corn question, had nothing to do with that particular controversy.

It is difficult to see the justification for the reprint in abridged form, by Professor Charles R. Henderson, of Thomas Chalmers's *Christian and Civic Economy in the Large Towns* (New York, Scribners, 1900.—350 pp.). That Chalmers was a good man, that he had some sensible ideas on the practical problems of pauperism and that he is in part responsible for the idea of the later University settlements, is, indeed, true. But his writings on general economic problems are well-nigh valueless. Where he followed the classical economists, as in the doctrine of population and wages, he accepted their errors; and where he opposed the economists, he was in almost every instance wrong. Professor Henderson has in his introduction a chapter in criticism of Chalmers's social teachings which is entirely too mild, and another chapter entitled "Some of the Important Contributions of Dr. Chalmers to Modern Social Movements of Thought and Action." The first sentence in this chapter begins: "It cannot be claimed that our author made any important contribution to economic or political theory."

The recent progress of French socialism has been so rapid that students of the problem will be especially interested in two works which have appeared during the past few months. The one is the collection of essays by the intellectual leader of the socialist movement in France, Professor Jean Jaurès, under the title, *Action socialiste* (Paris, Georges Bellais, 1899.—12mo, 558 pp.). This is the first of a series of volumes, and contains his chief speeches during the past decade. The subjects discussed in this volume are summed up under the two heads of "Socialism and Education" and "Socialism and the Nations." There is very little of economic socialism in the work; for when a socialist like M. Jaurès discusses education or international politics, his conclusions do not differ much from those that would be accepted by an average American with a moderate degree of interest in social reform. The other book is a stenographic report of the *Proceedings of the General Congress of Socialist Organizations*, held in France last December (Paris, Société Nouvelle de Librairie de l'Édition, 1900.—12mo, 495 pp.). This Congress was interesting, being the first successful attempt to reunite into one body all the various sections which have, until now, been almost at swords' points. One of the most important questions

that came up is put in the following terms: Does the class struggle permit a socialist to take part in a bourgeois ministry? This, as is well known, refers to the present minister of commerce in France, who happens to be a socialist. Jaurès and Guesde were, as usual, leaders in the Congress. The discussions, as was to be expected in so young an organization, were not so temperate or so conservative as those of their older brethren across the Rhine.

*L'Impôt sur les successions en Angleterre, en France et en Belgique* is the title of an essay of 140 pages by Georges Vanden Bossche, reprinted from the *Revue des Questions Scientifiques* (Louvain, Polleunis et Ceuterick, 1900). The work is devoted mainly to an examination of the changes introduced in the English death duties by the Finance Act of 1894, and of the reforms recently proposed in France and Belgium, in comparison with the existing inheritance taxes. There is an interesting and even lively account of the parliamentary debates on the subject in each of the three countries; for the author seems to have the knack of extracting juice from the driest sources. The discussion in each case involves the question of progressive rates, and the author adds his own views on the theory of that subject. He approves of progressive taxation as a compensation for the regressivity of indirect taxes. It may not be generally known in America that the French Senate, as well as the Chamber of Deputies, has voted in favor of the principle of progressive inheritance taxes, though the two chambers have not agreed upon the details of a measure embodying the principle.

Thanks to the Musée Social, a series of works on the conditions of labor in the various countries of the world has been undertaken by young scientists especially designated for this purpose. The United States has fared better in some respects than the European countries. A year or two ago M. Rousiers published his book on trusts, or the concentration of capital; and now there appears, from the pen of M. Louis Vigouroux, a companion book on the concentration of labor (*La Concentration des forces ouvrières dans l'Amérique du Nord*. Paris, Armand Colin & Cie. — 12mo, 362 pp.). M. Vigouroux is professor of political economy at the Paris Architectural School, a title which in itself suggests how much broader is the scope of professional education in France than with us. The author visited this country three times—in 1893-94, in 1896-97 and again in 1898—and made good use of his opportunities, not only by collecting a mass of material on the trades-union question, but also by visiting in person the important cities. His book is not so much a study of