

country has borne fresh fruit in the work of M. J. Desmars, entitled *Un Précurseur d'A. Smith en France, J.-J.-L. Graslin (1727-1790)* (Paris, L. Larose, 1900.—244 pp.). Graslin is known chiefly because of his *Essai analytique sur la richesse et sur l'impôt*, published in 1767. This was written in competition for a prize, offered by a French society, for the best work which should discuss the effects of indirect taxation. The funds were provided by some of the physiocrats, and the first prize, as is well known, was awarded to one of the physiocratic writers. Graslin opposed their system *in toto*, yet his work was so able that it extracted from the committee an honorable mention. M. Desmars does well to recall to us all the circumstances of the time, and gives an account of the author's life, with a careful analysis of his work. While we may not agree with him in ascribing so much merit to Graslin, whose attack on the physiocrats was thrown into the shade by the appearance soon after of the *Wealth of Nations*, it is well to recall, as does the author, some of the real contributions of the eighteenth-century Frenchmen, outside of the "Économistes," to economic science.

*The History and Growth of the United States Census*, by Carroll D. Wright and William C. Hunt (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900), is a valuable public document giving an exhaustive history of each of the censuses, the scope of the inquiries, the form of schedules and instructions, the laws authorizing each census, total and per capita cost of different censuses, and a list of publications. The history is not only chronological, showing the growth from one census to another, but also topical, showing when each subject (*e.g.*, agriculture) was taken up and how it expanded. The authors add incidentally a great deal of information in regard to census methods, so that the whole will take rank as an authoritative source of information concerning this important public enterprise.

*The Report on the Census of Cuba*, taken under the direction of Lieut.-Col. J. P. Sanger, with the assistance of Henry Gannett and Walter F. Willcox, statistical experts (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900), is much more than a mere census of the people. It gives a description of the island, a history of discovery, an account of political movements down to the present military government of the United States and a description of the political organization. The statistical part analyzes population according to number, density, sex, age, nativity, marital condition, literacy, occupations, citizenship, *etc.* It is noteworthy for its scientific carefulness and elaborateness. Under the head of marital condition, for instance, it is shown that

15.7 per cent of the total population were lawfully married and that 8.4 per cent were living together as husband and wife by mutual consent. These two classes are studied for the different provinces and cities, by sex, age and race, and comparisons are made with the United States and with Porto Rico. The authors seem sure that the enumeration was sufficiently accurate. If so, the whole study is of value, not only for Cubans and for the people of the United States interested in Cuba, but for all interested in the study of vital and social statistics. Messrs. Gannett and Willcox are to be thanked for the character of this piece of work.

The United States Industrial Commission has published during the past few months no less than five reports. One of these, the *Report on Trusts*, was noticed in this QUARTERLY (XV, 547). Vol. II contains the statutes and decisions, federal, state and territorial, together with a digest of corporation laws, applicable to large industrial corporations. The fourth volume, of over eight hundred pages, deals with *Transportation*, containing not only the testimony but a well-written review and an admirable topical digest of the evidence, prepared by Prof. E. Dana Durand. As the investigation is not yet complete, the report is confessedly preliminary; but in its present shape it contains an invaluable arsenal of facts on almost every phase of recent transportation topics. Vols. III and V deal respectively with *Prison Labor* and *Labor Legislation*. The former contains a good account of the systems in force in various states, and makes recommendations for reforms of a fiscal and social nature. The New York system is held up as a model in many respects. The *Report on Labor Legislation*, while also preliminary in character, includes an excellent digest of all existing statutes, prepared by Mr. F. J. Stimson.

In the *Annals of an East Anglian Bank* (Norwich, A. H. Goose, 1900. — 399 pp.) Mr. W. H. Bidwell has put together an interesting account of the history of the institution which later developed into the important house of Overend, Gurney & Co. Incidentally, the work throws some light on rural banking during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It contains sketches of the chief personalities connected with the financial interests of East Anglia, among others one of Mr. R. H. I. Palgrave, the editor of the *Dictionary of Political Economy*. The book will appeal to a wider circle of readers than merely those interested in the financial affairs of the district.

The third volume of the collection of Léon Say's writings and speeches on French finance (*Les Finances de la France sous la*