

decidedly superior to the few bibliographical notices of a clerical stamp scattered through Part I. In his list of the libraries that possess many works on the Philippines Señor Pardo fails to mention that belonging to the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas at Barcelona, to which most of the Retana collection has been added. The value of the work would have been enhanced by substituting a genuine historical sketch of the Philippine Islands for the fragmentary information conveyed in the Introduction; by translating into English the bibliographical notices in Part I; by translating Part II entire, and appending to it a subject index.

Mr. Belfort Bax has completed his series of studies on the social side of the German Reformation in a volume entitled *The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptists* (Swan Sonnenschein, 406 pp.). In his first volume on *German Society at the Close of the Middle Ages*, Mr. Bax gave a lucid account of the economic changes due to the rise of capitalism at the commencement of the sixteenth century, and pointed out its relation to the break-up of the manorial system, the evolution of the money economy, the decay of the guilds, the growth of the merchant princes, and the development of free competition. In a second volume on the Peasant Wars, he showed how these facts inevitably led to the outbreak of the insurrections in 1525. In the present volume on the Anabaptists, he makes it clear how the same causes resulted a few years later in that economico-religious movement which culminated in the Reformation at Münster. He studies in some detail the communistic ideals of Münzer, Jan of Leyden, and Jan Matthys, and he points out how the social reforms proposed were based on the notion of a return to the economic conditions of the old village community. An original contribution to the subject is found in the chapter on the Anabaptist movement in England. It is quite possible to appreciate the value of Mr. Bax's historical studies and yet to deplore the somewhat irrelevant passages in which he tries to make propaganda for the modern socialist movement.

Dr. Theodor Sommerlad has followed up his investigations on the economic activity of the early church by a monograph on the economic theories of the church, under the title, *Das Wirtschaftsprogram der Kirche des Mittelalters* (Leipzig, Weber, 223 pp.). His description of the economic and social views of the New Testament covers a field that has been well worked of late, but his succeeding chapters on the economic life of the third century in Africa and Egypt, on the theoretical reaction against the economic life of the fourth century, and finally on the counter-reaction and the systematization of the new ideas

by Augustine, will be found helpful and interesting. The author has gone to the sources in every case, and while his conclusions are not very novel, they form a convenient repertory of the facts.

Recent writers in social and economic history have often called attention to that interesting and original form of barter known as "le commerce par dépôts," or "stummer Handel." Mr. P. J. Hamilton Grierson has now attempted to give an adequate description of this under the title of *The Silent Trade, a Contribution to the Early History of Human Intercourse* (Edinburgh, William Green & Sons, 112 pp.). The bibliography of travels and descriptive works covers fifteen pages, and Mr. Grierson has made good use of all this material in presenting a clear picture of the customs of the primitive market and its survivals in modern times.

Studies of municipal finance in the towns of mediæval Germany have of late become quite common. England and France, however, have suffered from the lack of any such investigation. A good beginning has now been made in the case of France in the elaborate work on the *Finances of the Commune of Douai from its origin to the fifteenth century*, by Georges Espinas (Paris, Picquart, 546 pp.). M. Espinas is the archivist-paleographer in the department of foreign affairs in Paris, and has already attracted the favorable notice of students of economic history by his work on the customs of the merchant guild of Saint-Omer, published two or three years ago. He belongs to the school of M. Pirenne and has evidently been much influenced by the latter's methods and conclusions. The investigation is based entirely upon manuscript material in Douai, and succeeds in presenting, although at considerable length, a very clear picture of the details of mediæval municipal revenue and expenditure. A striking feature of the book is the series of notes, in which the conditions at Douai are compared in almost every important point with those in the other French and German towns. Most of this comparison, however, is with the German towns, because of the paucity of material for the French communes. M. Espinas points out how the original general property tax was of democratic origin, and finally succumbed to the attacks of the aristocratic faction. An especially interesting part of his work is the account of the revenues from municipal property. The volume contains three long appendices; one on the sources, another giving a detailed topographical index, and the third including a number of important documents. Altogether, M. Espinas is to be thanked for a most excellent and scholarly investigation. Let us hope that it will be followed by similar studies in England and France.