

problems of production, of capital, of distribution *etc.*, but limits himself almost entirely to problems of what might be called social politics. As a contribution to this phase of the history of economics, his book is not only interesting but valuable.

The *Pattern Nation* (London, Macmillan and Company, 1906; 172 pp.) is the title which Sir Henry Wrixon has chosen for a somewhat discursive essay on the present drift towards socialism and its probable consequences. In socialism he sees the rock on which the democratic ship of state is destined to go to pieces. More in sorrow than in anger, he analyses the causes which are impelling the states of the western world towards socialism and discusses what appears to him to be the irreconcilable conflict between the ideals of socialism and the ideals of liberty. The most interesting thing about his criticism of the socialist state is his apparent acceptance of the view that its coming is inevitable. He arraigns it as a thing achieved or about to be achieved, and his only hope for the future of his country appears to be based on the belief that the passing of socialism, when once its true nature is understood, will be even more rapid than its coming. The essay is valuable as a reflection of a phase of opinion in England, if not very convincing as an argument.

*La Coopération* by Mr. P. Hubert-Valleroux (Paris, Victor Lecoffre, 1904; 228 pp.) is a compact manual of information in regard to the coöperative movement, particularly in France. Following a brief historical introduction come chapters on the present situation of coöperative societies in the fields respectively of production, of trade, of consumption and of agriculture. The author concludes by insisting on the importance of the moral and religious motives in connection even with a movement like coöperation, which might be thought to be purely industrial.

In his *Factory Legislation in Pennsylvania: Its History and Administration* (Philadelphia, John C. Winston Company, 1907; xi, 178 pp.), Dr. J. Lynn Barnard presents an admirable sketch of the triumphant struggle for restrictive labor laws in one of the most conservative of our states. His account is doubly valuable because it is not confined to the analysis of laws and judicial decisions, but includes a description of the conflicting motives and opposing personalities behind each change in the law and a discussion of the circumstances which prevent efficient administration even after good laws have been enacted and upheld by the courts. This monograph is the third special study of this field of legislation for a particular American state that has thus far been published. It is much to be desired that similar studies for other

states than Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts may be undertaken by students of social legislation, and for such studies Dr. Barnard's work may well serve as a model.

Dr. Moritz Wagner has rendered a distinct service to foreign as well as to German students by preparing a brief history of the development of Germany's system of workmen's insurance: *Die deutsche Arbeiter-versicherung: Ihre Entstehung und Weiterentwicklung* (Berlin-Grunewald, A. Troschel, 1906; vi, 314 pp.). After twenty-five years of successful operation the system can no longer be looked upon as an experiment. What is now needed is a codification of the legislation which has brought it to its present stage of development and its extension to classes of the industrial population (*e. g.* widows and orphans) which it has thus far only indirectly benefited. Whether the system which has on the whole proved so satisfactory for Germany is adapted to the conditions in other countries, and especially in the United Kingdom and the United States, is a question which must be decided in part by a consideration of these conditions and in part by a thoughtful study of the lessons of Germany's experience. The materials for such a study are ably presented in Dr. Wagner's monograph.

*Une Experience industrielle de réduction de la journée de travail* (Brussels, Misch and Thron, 1906; xx, 120 pp.) is the title of an exceedingly interesting and exact study of the results of shortening the hours of labor in a Belgian chemical works under the direction of the author, Mr. L. G. Fromont. When the experiment was begun, in 1892, the usual work-day was twelve hours. This was reduced to eight hours by introducing the three-shift system, and the result after twelve years' trial appears to have been satisfactory from every point of view. The author is careful to warn the reader against hasty generalizations based on this one experiment; but it is evident from the full and precise description given of the conditions in the establishment that it is typical of a large class, and that a like success may reasonably be expected over a considerable field of industrial enterprise. The verbal description of the text is supplemented by statistical tables and charts and even by reproductions of photographs showing the tasks in which different workers are engaged. As a whole the monograph is to be commended as a model of exposition and of temperate reasoning.

The French Association for Protective Labor Laws has published, under the title, *La Durée légale du travail* (Paris, Felix Alcan, 1905; 297 pp.), an interesting account of the proceedings which resulted in its advocacy of a ten-hour legal work-day for all classes of workers in manufacturing and mechanical industries. In addition to voluminous re-