

This first volume carries us to the June demonstration. The next will deal with events from July to October, 1917, and will contain two chapters on the famous *coup d'état*, and an exposition of the equally famous theory of Permanent Revolution. Trotsky himself plays a far greater part in the events of these months and it will be interesting to see how far he can remain objective about them.

His translator, Max Eastman, writes a short biographical introduction—hero-worship undisguised, and adds a number of notes which are not altogether necessary, though sometimes useful. He might have completed his first-aid outfit with a map of St. Petersburg.

W. A. EDWARDS.

INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION IN SOVIET RUSSIA, by J. G. Crowther (Heinemann, 7/6d.).

Here is a book neither especially informative nor provocative, and with too ambitious a title, but it raises almost fortuitously a point of interest. Mr. J. G. Crowther, who is evidently well versed in the ways of technical education in England, made in 1930 a round of visits to schools and colleges in Moscow and Leningrad, and the book is a compilation of his rough notes. The point that emerges is that technical education in Russia has acquired significantly a new status. That is of course as it should be. That theory grows out of practice and not the other way round is a crucial theorem for communism. (The point is elucidated in Bukharin's paper on the theory of 'Theory and Practice' published by Kniga). And in the event, an observer familiar with the atmosphere in which technical education is undertaken in England seems not to have had time (for Mr. Crowther's visit was of a holiday brevity) to recover from the initial shock of discovering a country where technical education is the tap-root of the educational system instead of a remote and pallid fibre. He can do little but note in passing details of some of the interesting changes such as the payment of students, the close connection between schools and factories, and the fact that teaching becomes less a specialized function and more a part-time job.

Space is lacking to go deeply into the question. Suffice it to say that the book indicates an approach to communism which leads the enquirer, almost abruptly, to the crux. The relation of technical education to the more general educational questions is understood by communists in a special sense: and the form of that relation gives communist thought its character. Mr. Crowther has, perhaps unintentionally, set up a train of thought which is not banal and may be useful.

MONTAGU SLATER.

EUGENICS AND EVOLUTION

THE CAUSES OF EVOLUTION, by J. B. S. Haldane, F.R.S.
(Longmans, 7/6d.).

America has just been the host for two International Congresses, the first a Congress of Eugenics and the second a Congress of Genetics. Eugenics is the study of Genetics as applied to man and it is obvious from a study of the papers read before the two meetings that the applied science has far outgrown her parent in her ideas. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the parent, as is often the case, cannot endorse the ideas of her offspring. Eugenics seeks to improve the human race by selective breeding, but as eugenists themselves have not yet decided what are the desirable characters to select for, any concerted plan for positive eugenics must necessarily hang fire. Evidently the traits which are desirable are, for the most part, not inherited in a simple way. They are, in addition, so many that a few controlled matings would not produce the super-race that the idealists have in mind.

A saying so true that it has almost become proverbial is that it takes three generations to found a family and three to found it. I suppose the eugenist would say that no foundering would occur if the family matings were made with due regard to the germ plasms brought together. But so many of the desirable characters