THE THE AGE INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER"

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

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Mr. Snowden has announced the Government's plans for providing work for the unemployed. There £13,500,000 for road development, and the chief railin hand costing £55,000,000. Total, £79,000,000. And how many unemployed will be absorbed thereby ratepayers, and railway travellers (to describe us all total as a new charge. When the work is proceeding pay more for our daily bread; but we shall all credited with this extra expenditure as an offset because the £79,000,000. That is rather a pity, money by this means will just about equal the original they have finished distributing it, and then we shall be the roads made, and the railway stations repainted.

duction by the elimination of waste in every departicular in the elimination of waste in every departicular in the national accountancy means elimination of wages, have arrived at your reduced cost of production you by exactly that amount. The process is exactly as if increase his customer of his customers in order to Snowden remarks, "are not showing much enthusiasm one else wondered at? Can Mr. Snowden, or anyonches, guarantee that they will see their £55,000,000 and the that they will see their £55,000,000 and the them in the tend in the tend of the them in the

problems. He complains that, although no doubt the railways do their best for the public, "the question of dividends comes first." And whose fault is it that dividends come first? Imagine the railway companies suddenly to carry the persons and possessions of the public at cost, and earn no dividends. How much would the bankers (whose "Minister" Mr. Snowden says he is) thenceforth lend on railway shares? It would be no use pointing out to the financiers how much had been spent on the property nor how valuable it was in a physical sense; the test question would be: "Yes, but what is its earning capacity?" If there is undue emphasis laid upon dividends, it is probably because dividends cannot be depended upon from one year to another, and the reason for this uncertainty is because the fund out of which all dividends must ultimately come is at the mercy of the banking system. Earning capacity is dependent upon loan policy. Industry can put up the "capacity," but only the bankers can create the "earnings." However, it is something to know that some money is going to appear in circulation from somewhere for some purpose or other, instead of being withdrawn from circulation. It will afford a temporary mitigation of our evil condition; and if it tends to make it worse again later on that will at least stimulate the urge towards an inquiry into the whole question of the financing of production and consumption.

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The causes of the Brazilian revolt were the subject of an article in a recent issue of the Daily News. The Federal Government "acquired the habit of inviting foreign missions of experts from abroad to put in order any branch of public service with which they were unable to cope satisfactorily." It is they were unable to cope satisfactorily. It is singular with what unanimity countries who accept loans from outside acquire the habit of asking for loans from outside acquire the habit of asking for this external advice. In the case of Brazil, a Naval Mission came from the U.S.A. to put the navy on a Mission came from the U.S.A. to put the navy on a struct the army. "Most recent of all," says the struct the army. "Most recent of all," says the visited Brazil for the purpose of advising the visited Brazil for the purpose of making the Government as to the best methods of making the Budget balance, and, generally, of straightening out the national finances which muddled policy and the national finances which muddled policy and vested interests had badly strangled." Our readers will know at once what is to follow: but let us persist will know at once what is to follow: but let us persist with our quotation. "One of the recommendations

of the British Mission was that a committee should be constituted to act as a kind of 'Geddes Axe' on expenditure.' Now all this took place at Rio de Janeiro, the headquarters of the Federal Government. But there happens to be the State of Sao Paulo, which is an enterprising and active area of Brazil and considers itself the commercial capital of that country. Their city is, we are told, "one of the best governed, if not the best, in all Latin America.' It was not surprising, then, that the Paulistas, who did a lot of work, came to resent foreign meddling in Brazilian domestic affairs, and held in hearty contempt a Government which "acquired the habit" of inviting it. So when President Bernardes agreed to the "Geddes Axe," and when the inevitable announcement was forthcoming that "some of the services would be severely pruned" it "fired the train of revolt amongst the already dissatisfied army officers and police in the State of Sao Paulo." The developments since are open to the eyes of the world.

The revolt is a most opportune lesson to the "eliminators of waste" in this country. It distinctly shows whither "deflation," "sound finance," and the "gold standard" (all of them the same thing) tend. Our readers will note particularly that whereas the process has been carried out to a greater or lesser extent in other countries without provoking physical resistance, those countries had been previously defeated, disarmed, and disorganised in the war. But now, in a country where the inhabitants have not entangled their sense of responsibility in deathly "duty" complex, where their Chambers of Commerce do not kneel to the Lord High Banker and say, "Sir, do with us what you will," the attempt at strangulation in the economic field is followed immediately by a counter-attack in the military field. The Paulistas may be likened to the Federation of British Industries, and the Federal Government to the Bank of England. Actual violence has flashed out in the West. And incipient violence has begun to lurk even in the shadows of Threadneedle Street. Armaments are the final answer to the gold standard.

The Government has formed its Committee to enof British industry and commerce, "with special reference to the export trade," and so on. In a covering Memorandum the opening passage is as follows: "The first question to which the attention of the Committee should be directed is the present position of British overseas trade and the prospect of British participation in the markets being such as to ensure sufficient and continuous employment and a satisfactory standard of living in this country." It will be seen that the emphasis is laid on export trade. And note carefully what is intended by the expression "export trade": it is not an exchange of value for value in order to complete and diversify consumption in the home market, but a preponder-ance of export values at which the Government is aiming. The reference to the objective as "sufficient and continuous employment" makes that clear, for obviously if we cannot absorb our million unemployed on the basis of our present output, and we take no measures to enable home buyers to buy any more goods than they do, we shall not alter the position merely by exporting more and importing as much more. Exports mean employment. Imports mean unemployment. Therefore, since we want an excess of employment over unemployment, we have to achieve an excess of new exports over new imports. The old excuse for forcing exports abroad, namely, "We must export to pay for our foodstuffs, which we cannot grow ourselves," is here clearly thrown overboard. This is an important point, although a digression from our main argument, and we will make it clearer by a quotation from the leading article in "Capel Court," the gifted writer of which has afforded us several illuminating economic analyses in the past. He says:

"The typical answer to the question: What is the objective of national trade? is somewhat as follows: Here, we shall be told, we have a population of forty or so millions unable to feed themselves and dependent on imported food. Our trade is necessary to pay for the foodstuffs. The explanation seems satisfactory: we cannot help sympathising with this desire to provide food for our population. But if we so far forget ourselves as to offer a gratuitous suggestion, and to indicate where a little help might be found; if we ask why, in view of the need for foodstuffs, we may not encourage the growth of a small quantity upon our English fields, we meet with a very cold reception, and are made to feel that, in the mysterious realms of economics, common sense is an impertinence. It now appears that to divert energy (capital or labour) from manufactures to agriculture will injure our trade. So that whereas at first trade was the means and the production of food the end, trade is now the end to which the direct production of food must be sacrificed."

Apart from the general value of these observations it will be observed that they contain one idea which might have been appreciated even by the orthodox advisers, namely, that assuming for the sake of argument that you must widen your excess of exports, you can do as much towards it by decreasing the volume of imports as by increasing that of exports. Yet you have responsible statesmen searching the world for a place to pitch an exported manufacture, and getting £79,000,000 put down to assist them, while not one of them thinks of our own idle men, idle land and idle seeds. One would have thought that, apart from the profit and loss aspect of the case, our military authorities would have become awake to the fact that agriculture is our first line of defence. When inviting our potential enemies to inspect our beflagged fleet at Spithead, do they ever think that they may be inspecting our bare acres as well?

We will now turn from the "Produce More", mechanism of prosperity to the "Consume Less device; for fairness demands that, having given attention to those economists who teach that we can best lift ourselves off the ground by our right boot-straps, we ought to listen patiently to the advocates of the left boot-straps. It is vitally important that the consumer should be aware that there is a negative as well as a positive method of stereotyping his poverty. That there should be two ways to the graveyard is more than we deserve, but Providence is rich in bounties, and no one ought to be allowed to forget it. The left boot-strap is Insurance, and its chief tug-sergeants are Sir William Beveridge and Mr. T. T. Broad. The latter gentleman has just issued a pamphlet* describing his scheme and contrasting it with that of the former. An outline of it is as follows:

Income £215,150,000.

is. per week from 4,500,000 womer workers	£11,700,000
15. 00. per week from 12,500,000 mer	0 770 000
workers 2s. 6d. per week from employers	110,500,000
is, per week from the State	£215,150,000

^{*&}quot;An 'All-in' National Insurance Scheme." By T. T. Broad, 123 Fernhead Road, W.9. 40 pp. Price 6d.

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Now, before we say a word in criticism of this or any other schame a word in criticism of this or any other scheme, let us say that we respect the author's intentions, and if we believed that the cause of the "Four Dreads," which he defines (Sickness, Unemployment, Old Age, and Death) were primarily due to the unequal distribution of which we should the unequal distribution of existing money, we should support the distribution of existing money, we should support the principle of his scheme, for, in general, it aims at making the poor more comfortable at the expense of the rich. But since we hold that the evils to be abolished do not be abolished to be about the abolished to be abolished to be about the a to be abolished do not arise from maldistribution of existing of potenexisting money, but from the non-production of potential money, but from the non-production of potential money. tial money, but from the non-production of and labour we cannot but assert that Mr. Broad's love and labour we cannot but assert that Mr. Broad's love and labour are lost. In effect, all his ingenuity is applied to applied to re-sharing, as it were, 100 loaves and 100 sixpences Expenses among 100 persons, whereas we say that there can be 200 loaves and 200 sixpences for them if they will be 200 loaves and 200 sixpences for them if they will go the right way to bring them into existence.

Let us now look at Mr. Broad's figures. Take Income first. The contributions of the workers represent money drawn directly out of percent incomes. Those money drawn directly out of personal incomes. Those of the employed th of the employers are drawn through prices from personal incomes. sonal incomes. Those of the State, through taxes incomes. Total, £215,150,000 per Thus, the annum yielded up out of personal incomes. Thus, the consuming post of personal incomes. Thus, the consuming power of the community is lessened by that sum. So much for that side of the account. Now take expenditure for that side of the account. take expenditure. Items Nos. 1 to 6, amounting to £138,42r community £138,425,000, are returned annually to the community an addition of the community of the co as an addition to personal incomes. Item No. 7, "Cost of Administration," only partly so; for a substantial part of all Cost of Administration," only partly so; for a substantial part of all Cost of Administration," only partly so; for a substantial part of all Cost of Administration, and part of all Cost of Administration and all Cost of Administra stantial part of the £10,000,000 involved is applied to the upkeen and first 10,000,000 involved is applied to the upkeep and fixed charges of the insurance organisations, and do fixed charges of the insurance organisations. sations, and does not flow into the pockets of private of all, let it be noted—£66,725,000, is, every penny that, withheld from the people. Suppose we assume administration as three questors of the "costs of all as much as three questors of the "costs of the "costs of as three questors of the "costs of the "c administration," i.e., £7,500,000, is distributed as like features of the "costs of personal income the result in the there is something personal income, the result is that there is something of the community, and not restored to them. This is At appen in the first some thing what this means to happen in the first year. Think what this means the natural shortage of the community's purchasing power as the cause of our stagnant trade you have power as the cause of our stagnant trade you have for proposal which of the community's purchase of the community is purch £70,000,000 per annum in the home market. Nor is this an oversight on Mr. Broad's part; for by 1975 he £3,000,000,000! We are not surprised to learn from the breace to this pamphlet that Mr. Broad is "infinanciers, etc., et financiers, etc., etc., it he could see it, an instrument of deflation. It the area of country abetinence—which is he could see it, an instrument of deflation. It is the area of compulsory abstinence—which is he aim of the deflationists. Whereas, the present and Health Insurance Acts cover in any, 15,000,000 parsons. Mr. Broad would bring ly, say, 15,000,000 Health Insurance Acts another 11,000,000 persons, Mr. Broad would bring tof the 30,000,000, making a total of 26,000,000 untry.

Not only are the consumers expected to lose (on account for 1956 Mr. Broad calmly adds in

£120,000,000 as revenue at 4 per cent. interest arising from the investment of this Reserve. Where is the £120,000,000 to come from? It cannot be "reached down out of the air," as Mr. A. M. Samuel said the other day. No, it is reached up out of the pockets of the same people who contributed the reserve. Imagine the impertinence of this ramp. An average member of the community is compelled to yield up, say, £3 a year. He gets back, say, £2 a year in benefits. This leaves £1 he has not got back. The Insurance Trust "invests" his £1, i.e., it lends it to some organisation which will put him to work. The organisation has to pay, say, 10d. a year interest to the Trust, and, of course, adds the 10d. into prices, which our victim has to pay. Therefore he has to pay 10d. a year fine for ever for having allowed the Trust to "save" his £1 for him. . . And yet there are, we believe, quite sane-looking people going about in a state of palsied trepidation because of rumours that Mr. Bottomley is having too good a time in prison. "Is this a dream?" asks Mr. Broad, as he contemplates his scale of "benefits." It is not, sir: it is an obscenely adjectived nightmare.

The Cuckold Conference.

By Rene Charles Dickens.

[The author of this article, who resides abroad, has only quite recently learned of the existence of the Social Credit Movement and Major Douglas's proposals. He has had no time to investigate the latter, and the opinions he expresses have been arrived at independently. Our readers will, no doubt, find them all the more interesting because of this fact.—E.D.]

The International Conference is a nest in which that Mocking Cuckoo Bird, the High Finance, has laid an egg. The Gallic (and Scotch) cocks and hens, crowing and clucking together, will hatch the egg in due time. And out of the egg will come a fully fledged "Gold Standard Bank."

The Gold Standard Banks (like the goose of the

The Gold Standard Banks (like the goose of the fable) are laying "golden eggs" in every part of the world. But that is only a figure of speech.

The eggs are laid by the taxpayers. In England the High Finance gets some 300 million pounds a year out of the taxpayer, in France some 13,000 million francs, and so on throughout the list. But in Germany the High Finance gets nothing. Whence the Cuckpoo's Charmed Egg.

Cuckoo's Charmed Egg. ... The Empire of Business') 8 per cent. only of the world's total business is done with gold, 92 per cent. being done with cheque-credit, having Bond-Credit or Other-Security-Credit behind it.

This famous Gold Theory is then that the world must use 8 per cent. of gold (or gold banknotes) and 92 per cent. of bankers' cheques as its only buying power. Behind the 92 per cent. of cheques lie (chiefly) the Government bonds. How did they

The State issues the Bond-Buying-Power and lends it to the bankers. The bankers put it in a steel box. Then they write out cheques for the amount received and hand them to the State. With these cheques, the State buys what it wants. After which it makes the taxpayers 1 ay an interest on the cheques, whose only value derives exclusively from the buying power of the bonds behind them.

In a word, the lender is the State and the borrower is the bank. But, hey presto, lender and borrower have changed places. The document with rower have changed places. The document with no buying power (the bond) is locked up. The document with no buying power (the cheque which is supplied by the printer round the corner) is let loose. It is apparent. The buying is done with this Deputy-Paper. So it appears to be the buying power, whereas it only represents it. If the bond was not there, the cheque would be worthless. It would have

no buying power. If the cheque was not there, the bond would still have its original buying power (a credit on the community given by the community). The bond conveys and lends its buying power to the

In other words: the British Government has lent (ultimately given) 7,000 millions of buying power to the bankers, and has borrowed 7,000 millions in bankers' cost less cheques. And for this privilege, the British taxpayer pays 300 million pounds a year. He calls it "borrowing from the gold banks." Who said Hee-Haw? Is John Bull only a Jack Ass?

Put into figures, approximately correct, the total (documentary) buying power of England is 18,000 million pounds, comprising: -

Title Deeds to land ... 8,000 millions of pounds English Bonds ... 7,000 Shares (depreciable) ... 2,000 Miscellaneous ... 1,000 Gold Bank notes 100 Currency Notes backed by bonds ... 240 ...

The deeds, bonds, shares, etc., only become buying power when deposited in the "Gold Bank," and are then duly represented by cheques. The currency notes are already . . . current buying power.

But documentary buying power (in any form) is only . . . documentary. So many scratches on a stone, so many notches on a tree, would be worth just as much. The documentary buying power is made real by the productive power of the community. The £18,000 millions of British documents are worth 18,000 millions if the nation can produce 18,000 millions in goods and services. The nation is waiting to produce. And judging by the experience of the war, the nation could produce them very quickly, too. But, the nation having made up its assume mind (or boying mind, as it fondly thisles) assume mind (or bovine mind, as it fondly thinks) to wait until the Gold Standard Machine is set in motion

. . . it will have to wait a long time.

Nevertheless, new ideas of finance are slowly evolving, and they threaten the Gold Standard. They may be put into one sentence: every European nation has discovered that currency notes without gold behind them may be used instead of bonds, thereby abolishing the use of the bankers' cheques.

This means that 7,000 millions of bonds may be replaced by 7,000 millions of currency notes. This process had started, and had got well under way in England, during the war. And (to the alarm of the would-be cheque-lenders) England issued some 340,000,000 of currency notes with bonds behind them. A currency note with a bond behind it is just as good (and more convenient) than a cheque with a bond behind it. But there is this difference: there was no interest to pay on the currency notes. If the process had been pushed far enough, the 7,000 millions of bonds might thus have been replaced by 7,000 millions of currency notes. And the so-called British National Debt would have been extinguished.

The justly alarmed bankers set to work. They hindered the extension of the system by advocating the "Gold Standard Currency" and the Bonded Debt . . . which is no debt at all. And they began to undo the good work. The bonds were there. So they started to bring back the currency notes (for destruction) and carried off the bonds triumphantly! Thus far 100,000,000 of currency notes have been brought back and the bankers have got the bonds. They are now getting interest on the bonds. (They will get the other bonds.)

In France, the gold-franc currency used to be about 4,000 millions of francs. It is now 41,000 millions of paper francs. And in addition to the permanent French "debt" of some 300,000 millions of francs, there are (about) 40,000 millions in special bonds, called bonds de la défense. These should be paid back in banknotes. The thing would only be

possible by printing the notes. This would nearly double the French currency. It will not be done. The bonds de la défense will surely be consolidated, and become a part of the permanent debt. So that if the bankers cannot reduce the French currencynotes, they can at least stop their increase. At the same time they will get more "interest" out of the French taxpayer.

In Germany, there were (about) 3,500 million 'gold' marks in 1913. During the war the German Government printed more currency notes, and with that proper buying power they procured for the State, railways, ports, ships, canals, and other valuable

But . . . when the German currency was 3,500 million marks the pound was worth 20 marks. When 35,000 million marks, the pound should have been worth 200. When 350,000 marks, it should have been worth 2,000, and so on. In a word, the proportional increase of the mark should have been met by a proportional decline in its (foreign) value.

No such thing took place. When the pound was really worth 2,000 marks, it was sold for 10,000. When it was worth one million, it was sold for fifteen millions, and so on.

This had two diabolical consequences: (I) It made German export prices cheap in pounds but dear in marks, enriching the German exporter at home, while killing

British trade everywhere;
(2) It reduced the total value of the Germans to rency in Germany, obliged the Germans to print more madly, and finally reduced the exchange value of the unit mark to zero.

If the quotations had been proportional, German prices would have been exactly what they were in 1913, and British trade would not have been affected one whit. But it is *undeniable* that the frightful and unprecedented alumn in Parish that the frightful and unprecedented slump in British trade (with its unemployment) is entirely due to the disproportional rates of exchange quoted by the bankers in the name of the gold standard.

The German debt to bankers having been swept away in the struggle (that also ruined Great Britain), a new gold bank in Germany (with a limited currency of money-notes) would oblige the German Government to present the Berl ment to present the Bankers with new bonds, accept cheques in their places, call this a loan and tax the

German people to pay interest on the operation.

The Mocking Cuckoo Bird, the High Finance, has laid this egg in the International Conference: the conference is cuckold . . . but it will hatch the egg in due time, let it crow, cluck, and scratch as it will.

OLD MOTHER BUMBLE.

Old Mother Bumble Went to His Humble, As sweet as any jam roll. She said: I declare Your cupboard is bare: And gave the poor lad a dole! He went to the butchers

To buy him some meat:
But the prices were such
He had nothing to eat!

So he went to a fellow In surplice and stole
Who would bury him gladly
For just double the dole!

But ere he came home
The bankers had sent
Old Mother Bumble
To gather the rent.

And this (you'll believe Neither tittle nor jot!) Was treble the vicar Had asked for his plot!

The Dame made a curtsey; His Humble, as well.
The Dame said: Your servant;
His Humble: O Hell!

MORGAN TUD.

Question Time.

NOTES ON SOCIAL CREDIT AND THE EXCHANGES.—II.

Last week we referred to the logical difficulties that would be created if the exchange value of the £ sterling were to be depressed below par at the same time as the Devices. time as the British price level (under the Douglas Scheme) were below the world average. We recognize that nise that organised finance is powerful enough to be able to win popular assent to its policy and teaching on a very slender basis of logic, but even finance must tell a plausible tale.

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Let us illustrate this from the case of Germany's expansion of her currency. It caused continuously rising prices in Germany, which meant that the purchasing power of each German mark within Germany grew less and less. Therefore it was plausible enough that holders of the Poiting Surgeoney, if they enough that holders of, say, British currency, if they wanted to buy German goods, should get more marks for each & than they did before German inflation because the state of th inflation began. But there was no logic in the actual price at which the financiers quoted the mark. Strict logic would be financiers of the mark when logic would have meant that, for example, when Germany's internal prices were doubled, the external value of the German mark would be one-half what it was when German mark would be one-half what it was; when up tenfold, one-tenth; and so on. But the slump in the mark did not obey this rule at all, as pointed to the slump in the mark did not obey this rule at all, as pointed out in an article elsewhere in this use. The out in an article elsewhere in the The mark was written down in price by the financiers to a ludicrously small fraction of its logical value. Value value to a ludicrously small fraction of its logical value. cal value. Yet nobody seemed to notice the fact. Just because the writing down of the mark was plausible. plausible, everyone accepted the illogical extent to which it was magine which it was written down. But now imagine that Germany had regulated internal prices so that they had not resulted internal prices so that they had not risen in the presence of expanded currency, or had got the presence of expanded currency, or had got the implausibility tency, or had got cheaper, then the implausibility been manifest to everybody, and would have investigation of the whole theory of exchanges.

We are aware that this consideration is not likely, these

of itself, to reassure those people for whose benefit these notes are written. They have a feeling that, notwithstanding written. notwithstanding any logical impediments, the money through exchange would, somehow or other, penalise any logical impediments would, somehow or other, penalise any country which through exchange manipulations any country which applied the Douglas Theories to its internal economy. on this reason we must pass on to more practical desiderations. We must pass on to more practical reminding all considerations, but not without first reminding all doubters that in the present condition of public therest and not without first reminding and the present condition of public the present condition of public therest and not without first reminding and the present condition of public therest and not without first reminding and the present condition of public therest and not without first reminding and the present condition of public therest and not without first reminding and the present condition of public therest and the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition of public there is a public that the present condition the present condition of the prese interest that in the present condition of public the ability and logic in the pursuance of its ends is not the with task that it was in let 12 cay 1014, and that easy task that it was in, let us say, 1914, and that he lapse of time the task will grow harder. Industries, that the lapse of time the task will grow harder. Remember, that ten years ago the idea of British the Bank Rate should be would have been unthinked. To-day there is none so mean as to do it reverble. British the Governing Council of the Association Dr. of British Chambers of Commerce—and since Dr.
One Decir Obeisance to the Rapk proves the rule. Of their Leaf is their generalissimo the significance their obeisance to the Bank proves the rule.

One way of expressing the doubt to which we way of expressing the doubt to which we other by of British credit and currency faster than on the inevitably depress the value of the £ sterling causion is a non sequitur. It assumes that just be a larger Conclusion is a non sequitur. It assumes that just besoif on offer to foreign buyers. That could only be broduction could be profitably employed in home so is to deny the premise from which we agreed

to set out-namely, that the Douglas Scheme was working "according to plan" at home. For is it not the essence of the Scheme that new credits would only be issued as and when production and consumption in this country expanded? Reflect, too, that the course of prices within the country would be continuously diminishing (even after starting from a point already below the prices of other countries), and then ask what influence would impel British citizens to buy other countries' currencies to a greater extent than they would want to buy ours. Orders flow to the cheapest country. And where orders flow, there also flows the demand for that country's currency. Therefore, so far as the law of supply and demand operated, the \pounds

sterling would appreciate, not depreciate.

The weakness of the doubters' argument can be shown by reference to prevailing conditions. If that argument were sound, the international value of the American dollar ought to be much below parity, for there is, at this moment, a much larger volume of credit existing in America than exists here. But it is above parity. The reason is that the credits circulating in America are supported by a larger volume of production and consumption than ours. Very well; under the Douglas Scheme a larger volume of production and consumption would

be taking place here. Presumably, the case of Germany prevents a good many people from realising the real strength of a Social Credit country. They saw German marks being quoted in London down, and down, and down—to almost vanishing point. They then conjure up visions of the same thing happening to the £, let us suppose by Wall Street. Well, it is one thing to mark down prices, but quite another to deliver the goods at those prices. Let critics explain liver the goods at those prices. Let critics explain to us how Wall Street would be able to dispose of British currency at the scrap prices they assume it might quote. During the slump in the German mark it was very rarely that anyone could buy marks in London at the ridiculous prices at which they were quoted, and this in spite of the fact that Germany was deliberately printing them for sale to speculating "mugs" abroad, who soon got in a panic at the continued decline in their purchasing power, and threw them on the markets of their respective countries for what they would fetch. No; to revert to Wall Street, before it can sell any British credit it must first get hold of it; for no national banking organisation can create other credit than its own. (There is, of course, the idea of an international currency floating about, but it has not materialised yet, and we need not consider it.) Therefore, the whole question would depend upon the willingness or otherwise of the British people to deliver their own high-value (ex hypothesi) £'s at a sacrifice; and we have already shown reason why they would be most unwilling.

would be most unwilling. All this time we have not been forgetting that it is in the power of Wall Street to manipulate the exchanges. The recent action of Mr. J. P. Morgan in restoring the French franc is in everyone's recol-lection. But it is obviously unsound to conclude that because a certain power is possible in a world of nations which are subjecting themselves to the old economic law, the same power will continue to exist when one of those nations shows the initiative of adopting the new economic law. Consider, too, the reactions which arise from the exercise of that power. Take this country and Germany. Everyone knows what was the effect on British trade of the power. Take this country and Germany. Everyone knows what was the effect on British trade of the writing down of the mark. German goods came in at prices which our own manufacturers could not touch, notwithstanding the fact that the prices of those goods inside Germany had gone up to grothose would have happened if the Germans had regulated would have happened if the Germans had regulated prices on "Douglas" principles, and had thus set

them going downwards instead of upwards? By doing that they would have eliminated all their internal difficulties; they would have cut out all those daily and hourly upward progressions of shopprices that so impoverished them and dislocated their retail trading organisation, and finally led to their collapse. And it was these internal problems, remember, that defeated Germany, not the external problems. Does not everyone remember how, at the beginning of the inflation, every financial expert was prophesying that she would be starved of raw materials? Yet it did not happen. Her mark was written down by the bankers until you could get as many marks for twopence as would buy a piano were you residing in Germany. But as fast as the financier wrote down the mark, so fast did the Germans write up their export price. So, whatever depths the mark fell to, you did not get the piano any cheaper; in fact, you got it at the exact price (here) that the Germans intended, and that was at just sufficient reduction below the British price for an equivalent piano as would tempt the buyer to get it from Gerpiano as would tempt the buyer to get it from Germany. The Germans, in short, quoted pianos in £'s, and you had to pay those £'s whatever the bankers decided about how many marks went to the £. We, therefore, respectfully submit that herein is prima facie evidence that a "Douglasised" Germany would have about finished us: she nearly did, as it was And if a disarmed Germany could do as it was. And if a disarmed Germany could do that, what of Great Britain with her fleet and her Dominions!

(To be continued.)

Contemporaries On Three Continents.

By C. M. Grieve.

I. WALLACE STEVENS.* " And who does not seek the sky unfuzzed, soaring to

Almost everybody, it must be regretfully confessed: ambition is at a low ebb—or rather taste in current pibitions is for the most part detestably shoddy: but r. Wallace Stevens makes up for legions of the com-nonplace who can discern in a primrose by a river's brink nothing more than a sulphurous flower or something of that sort. It is extraordinarily comforting to find a man devoted to such a quest in contemporary America. Ten such would almost make what Frank Harris terms the Benighted States fit for a Christian to live in. In a matter of this kind, as in others, it is "better to travel hopefully than to arrive." Do what he can the sky will not entirely unfuzz itself. or permit anyone to unfuzz it. Soar as he may the princox remains tantalisingly just beyond his reach. It is as well. We have absolute faith in Mr. Stevens's perseverance, and in his ultimate success. But in the meantime we are more than content that his incessant efforts should continue. They provide a spectacle unique in contemporary literature—a series of unparalleled efforts, conceived with an adroitness that borders on the miraculous, to surprise the heavens out of their last shreds of obscurantism as on the terrestial plane one might seek to frighten an enemy out of his skin or devastate a virgin with what

"the horrifying fable So gracious and so wild."

And his essays in lieu of soaring have a comedic element of which we can never see enough. Indeed, we might well wish his wings clipt. He must, at all events, never be allowed to soar beyond our ken. Time enough for the princox! It will always be time enough for the princox. In the meantime let us follow every movement with gratitude—magnified and given * Harmonium: by Wallace Stevens. (Alfred A. Knopf.)

to our eyes in the "slow motion" of a verbalism that does not permit the tiniest absurdity, the most elusive impossibilism, to escape.

Mr. Stevens has begun to attract the critics, and their explanations are an added joy. "His imagination," says Kenneth Jewett in The Transatlantic Review, "is accumulative and piles up gorgeous and fantastic arrays of words and phrases. With these his slightly austere intellect weaves a complex pattern. Mr. Stevens has a keenly developed sense of physical and harmonic movement, and his perfected, twodimensional, still-lifes stand like rests or held chords in the progression of his complete harmony." Untermeyer, in his new book, "American Poetry Since 1900" (Messrs. Grant Richards), says: "Wallace Stevens might be called a pointillist rather than an impressionist. His method is the breaking-up of the pattern into tiny chromatic clashes, the neo-impressionism of Seurat. He is fond of little blocks of pure colour, verbal mosaics in which the syllables are used as pigments. It is an 'absolute' poetry towards which Stevens seems to progress, an art of syllabic tone and colour which, separate from any relation to the human element, aims to exist and blossom by itself in a pure æstheticism. . . . Caring little for content, he retreats further and further into an obscure verbalism. Unable to effect simple illusions, he endeavours to bemuse with elaborate prestidigitation, plucking shining phrases out of a vacuum. What-ever the unconscious reactions of Stevens to his subject, his consciousness dictates its will and it is not like the consciousness of any other craftsman. One looks to Stevens for an explanation of these postures. All he vouchsafes, by way of elucidation, is this.

It is with a strange malice That I distort the world.

. . . When one considers that Stevens allowed his work to appear in magazines for a period of over ten years before permitting his poems to appear in a book, one must reserve finalities of judgment. Such reticence as his about a period of of ticence as his should command a certain measure of patience from us. Stevens's goal is not the one to which most of his confrères are struggling; if he 15 often unsure of his faith, he is, at least, seeking his, own way, a search which may win a slender success Mr. Untermeyer does not second the eulogies of Miss Harriet Monroe, who described a group of Stevens's poems as "masterpieces of lyric beauty," and declared that their author was "the peer of any poet new living and of many and and and now living and of many a famous one now dead and enshrined "—but, although Untermeyer is right in discounting the wild gush of the lady with regard to the preeme in quantity. the poems in question, and Stevens's relative position as a poet, we remember that elsewhere he has said that "we know that the heresy of yesterday becomes the platitude of to-morrow, but that knowledge does not make it perceptibly easier for us to realise how quickly the most radical school or tendency grows vieux jeu: we who were 'the young men' a few years ago gaze with an incredulity, in which surprise and outrage are mingled, at a younger generation that not only knocks at our doors but threatens to batter down the very structure in which we were just beginning to feel comfortable." Untermeyer's attitude to Stevens and one or two others certainly shows that he has become far more of an old-fashioned conservative already than it would be natural even for him to realise and admit. We can only be glad that he has had the good sense to suspend judgment to "a more convenient season." He is a judge who has summed up adversely against the accused, but postponed sentence size die

Llewelyn Powys in The Dial for July, however, does not convict himself of incompetence in any such spineless fashion. "It is impossible for us to read Mr. Stevens's poetry." Mr. Stevens's poetry," he proclaims, "without feeling

that we are being initiated into the quintessential tapering expression of a unique personality—a personality as original and authentic as it is fastidious and calculating. He stands quite alone amongst the poets of the more modern schools in that each unexpected verbal manipulation conceals some obscure harmony of sense and sound which not only provokes intellectual appreciation, but in the strangest possible way troubles the imagination—listening to his poetry is like listening to the humming cadences of an inspired daddy-longlegs akimbo in sunset light against the coloured panes of a sanct window above a cathedral alternation dral altar. His poetry is beyond good and evil, beyond hope and despair, beyond thought of any kind, one might almost say ... Possibly the most perfect the poem called 'The Cortège of Rosenbloom.' It defies completely all rational explanations, and yet, at the same time, tingles with vague imaginative at the same time, tingles with vague imaginative evocations. What strange subterfugitive symphonies of infinitesia. of infinitesimal tom-toms titillate the listener's ears as the cadaver of the wry, wizened one 'of the colour of horn, in the sky! of horn, is carried to his burial place up in the sky! What sly bemused tambourine cacophony beats upon the ear diversely beats upon the ear diversely beautiful tread of the the ear-drum with the reiterated 'tread, tread' of the mourners."

"It is turbans they wear And boots of fur."

But I have probably quoted enough to have made readers unacquainted with Stevens's work anxious to taste it in fuller measure than a couple of lines at a connoisseurs in abnormal cerebration—mental gymnastics of a remote order. I am anxious to choose something that will order a remote order. But what shall I quote? It is poetry for something that will appeal not only to the very few who would see that will appeal not only to the very few who would go to the ends of the earth for a new frisson of the cart for a new frisson of this sort (on the off-chance that there may be even one will be even one with the off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be off-chance that there may be even one will be even one such amongst the readers of THE NEW AGE who has not yet experienced Stevens), but for that larger as not yet experienced Stevens. that larger minority who have a properly civilised de-light in mero classification who have a properly civilised deight in mere cleverness, provided it is clever enough. Shall it be that inimitable poem "Cy Est Pourttaiete, which me Ste. Ursule of low Unga Mille Vierges," in Madame Ste. Ursule, et les Unze Mille Vierges," in the most une prected en transported et les Unze Mille Vierges, with delithe most unexpected emotion in realising, with deli-Blackbird "? Or that verse in which the worms speak at Heaven's gate:

Within of the tomb we bring Badroulbadour, Here is an eye. And here are, one by one, The lashes of that eye and its white lid." The lashes of that eye and its white lid."

Or "The Florist Wears Knee-Breeches," or "Tea at the Palace of Hoon," or "Peter Quince at the Take, and Lord Dunsay, and the art of S. H. Sime.

The very titles connect Stevens with the Take, then, the last section of the last-mentioned:

"Beauty is momentary in the mind— The fitful tracing of a portal; But in the flesh it is immortal.

The body dies; the body's beauty lives, So evenings die, in their green going, A wave, interminably flowing.

To gardens die their most breath scent Wave, interminably flowing.

So gardens die, their meek breath scenting
The cowl of Winter, alone repenting.

So maidens die, to the auroral
Celebrations of a maiden's choral.

Susanna's music touched the bawdy strings Of those white elders; but, escaping, Now, in ... Death's ironic scraping. Now, in its immortality, it plays On the clear viol of her memory, And makes a constant sacrament of praise."

Mr. Stevens is a lawyer; and the law is proverbially an ass. Chesterton's donkey can still cry:

"I am dumb,

I keep my secret still," for it has had another hour, with a very different rider on its back. It is certainly time to give the devil his due; and already, as I have shown,

"There is a shout about his ears And palms before his feet."

The Theatre. By H. R. Barbor.

MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION.

Of recent years we have had a plethora of so-called mystery plays" on the boards of metropolitan and provincial playhouses. The modern mystery play is by no means to be confounded with the mediaeval homonym-the dramatic output of the mestiers (Modern French: metier) or craftsmen of the Guilds. The mystery of the Middle Ages served as a dramatic focus of the imaginations of the mediaeval com-Dominated by the Church the æsthetic creation of the period was centred naturally enough upon the presentation of clerical material. Throughout the whole evolution of drama it has been the function of the theatre to "show the whole body of the time his form and pressure." The form of Mediaevalism was the cross and its pressure was sacerdotalism. The old mystery play was the show-

ing forth of these twain. In the mystery play of our own century the same function of drama is evident. Religious conviction has given place to feckless bewilderment among the mass of people who constitute the bulk of playgoers. What is more natural, then, than that the theatre of to day should endeavour to polarise one of the chief mental characteristics of the age, the Will-to-Bamboozlement? Greece sought to raise man to the dignity of the myth (æsthetic concepts of observed natural laws). The Greek theatre fixed in terms of Aegisthos, Clytemnaestra, Elektra, and the rest, the preoccupation of the classic mind with man as a natural phenomenon. Miracle, Morality, and Mystery sought in terms of drama to impress the spiritual above and the control of the mechanic control of ual phenomenon of humanity. The mechano-sentimental type of mental reaction that does duty for intelligence with the generality of our present social order is reflected at its most barren in our most popular deliberation of the social order is reflected at its most barren in our most popular deliberation. lar dailies; is heard at its most lachrymose in songs about "dear old mammy," and resting caravans; is discernible in terms of action, or rather of inaction, when thousands upon the condition of the condition o when thousands upon thousands spend straitly limited leisure watching football or tennis which they never play or, apparently, wish to play. In the playhouse one typical proliferation of this mentality is the play

of mystery qua mystery—not, be it noted, of mystery For the mystery play, as exemplified of late in and imagination. various London theatres, and most recently at the Comedy, where Mr. Aubrey Smith has conspired with Mr. Martin Sabine to bewilder such as seek bewilderment for two hours odd nightly and at matinées, has nothing whatever to do with imagination, except with that type of imagination that is akin to, and about as

useful and entertaining as, mania.

Let us consider "The Creaking Chair" as a case in point. The title is deceptive; presumably it is intended to be. Perhaps we are intended to believe that the creaking of the chair was integrally connected with the mystery. But it wasn't. It just creaked. And though the jewels were at one time under the cushion, the chair told no tales, even to its sympathetic occupier. The mysterious Oriental servant did not even creak; he contented himself with slinking.

Miss Tallulah Bankhead, as the explorer's slinking. mysterious wife from mysterious Port Said (the only

real mystery of which is the precise derivation of its extraordinarily pungent odours (Oh, Yadil, where is thy stink; Oh, grave, where is thy putridity?) spoke broken English, which, of course, puts her under suspicion (Cæsar's wife must not speak pidgin-Latin, of course). But: "Who Killed Mrs. Carruthers?" is the question of moment—to the bewildermenteering

As a colleague in pen-jogging, I claim the newspaperman's right, asserted by Mr. Eric Maturin as the young journalist, to "sauce" blundering detectives, even of Mr. Sam Livesey's authority, without being liable to arrest on suspicion of having caused Mrs. Carruthers's death. Mr. Maturin's determination to leave the house was quite comprehensible. shared it at intervals during the evening, and did not expect, therefore, to incur the attention of Scotland

Yard's Big Four.

Miss Olga Slade made such a buxom, attractive maid that no member of the force could have put the "darbies" on her, even if she had killed Mrs.

Mr. Nigel Bruce, as the Scotch servant, a monument (his gravity demands just that noun) of truly feudal probity, a mirror of pawky savoir-faire, besides giving the performance of the evening, engineered some doubts as to who killed Mrs. Carruthers. One felt that his Angus Holly might well have slain that apparently inoffensive dame out of some obscure Gaelic loyalty to the occupant of the creaking invalid conveyance. He was no mysterymonger, although, of course, North-of-Tweed psychology must for ever remain one of the mysteries, if not of Eleusis, at any rate, of London Town Favete

There were several others who might have killed Mrs. Carruthers. Even Mr. Livesey was suspected by some of his colleagues, and certainly the amazing way he conducted his researches might well occasion the gravest dcubts of his good faith, not to mention good sense. Indeed, the behaviour of all the assembly was curious, and as confusion was apparently the authors' intention and the audience's desideratum, the complexity of plot, or rather of incident,

was probably most satisfactory.

For in the mystery play the "why" does not matter. You do not concern yourself with the "how," so much as the "how not." You are not intrigued by the deed, but by the question "Who did it?" The ordinary type of drama, which affects but slight interest in motivation, in those intimacies of personality and interplay of emotions, desire, aspirations, that make for great dramatic conflict, at least studies person or society in relation to a given act, series of acts or state of mind. The mystery play is on a lower plane altogether; it is preoccupied, not with cause and effect, but with the lack of relation between presidents and a central fact. incidents and a central fact. And such are the preoccupations of the insane.

The spectacle of the kitten chasing its tail is elevating by comparison. I certainly find it far more amusing; for the spectator of this type of play is like a kitten chasing nine or ten non-existent tails in the hope of finding one flesh, blood, and fur specimen. For my part I am all in favour of the immediate Manxification of the mystery.

The Horse-Dealers. By S. Davis.

They were twin-brothers. When their father died, he left them a large heritage in horses, stables, pasture-lands, and other valuable possessions, which he divided with scrupulous care equally between the two. It was his wish that his sons should live in amity and friendship with each other, and he took this precaution to ensure it. Alwin, however, in view of his seniority (he was the elder by fourteen minutes seven seconds) considered he was entitled to a larger share of the patrimony, which his brother Egbert thought that he actually received—and bitterly resented it.

And so their quarrel began almost before their

father's obsequies were over.

This original cause of their differences was soon forgotten in the new and more serious disagreements that cropped up almost daily. Anything was enough to set them by the ears. A success at the fair, the purchase of a well-favoured horse, or the building of an additional stable, inflamed the jealousy and passion of the two brothers against each other to a degree that not infrequently called for the intervention of their neighbours.

Nor is it to be supposed that the womenfolk were behindhand in the quarrel of their husbands. Their encounters at the butcher's, the grocer's, or at the play (where they often enacted a little dramatic scene of their own), are still remembered to this day. But their enmity assumed its keenest form of a Sunday in church, where they endeavoured to annihilate each other by a desperate display of the finest

feathers and the most glittering jewels.

Valuable assistance was also rendered to the parents by their children, who, regularly every Saturday afternoon, led formidable armies against one another with results which were scarcely calculated to being a attlement of the control of to bring a settlement of their fathers' dispute any nearer. On the contrary, these occurrences would invariably lead to an engagement of the two entire households, not excluding the servants. Indeed, it was the latter who usually added the real sanguine touch to the affair by rushing at one another, on their masters' behalf, with their whips, rakes, spades, brooms, or any other instruments they could lay hold of, although, when they met in the evening of the same day in the bar-room of the Unicorn they shook hands and the bar-room of the Unicorn they shook hands and clinked glasses as if nothing had

It was otherwise with their more bellicose neighbours. For not only did these take sides in this rankling feud, but developed in the process their own quarrels, which they indulged in whenever occasion

Thus hardly a day went by in this little town of Porcue (otherwise of no very great significance in the Empire) without its quarrel or skirmish, which caused the more sedate and responsible members of the community no small alarm. But the most they could do was to grumble in secret. For the twins being very rich and the secret. being very rich and powerful, nobody dared to raise his protests too loudly.

Presently, however, things had reached a pass when people were obliged to take counsel as to the

best means to adopt in the matter.
"We cannot allow such things to go on," cried

one. "No, we must put a stop to this state of affairs," assented another. "We must point out to them the unreasonable

ness, the criminal folly of their conduct and behaviour," exclaimed a third.

"Why, our town is being ruined," lamented a auth. "We are losing our good name every

"If we could only bring the two families together," someone suggested.
"Let us call a conference," said someone else, who had hitherto abstrained for

who had hitherto abstained from saying anything. This latter idea immediately caught on, and every body was clamouring for a conference. But the brought brothers were obdurate, and it could not be brought about till many years later, after their demise.

The sons, being more enlightened, were more prone to listen to reason. "My father," said the son of the elder brother,

had many and real grievances against my uncle. Everybody knows that. Still, there is no reason I should not consent to a reconciliation, provided those grievances are acknowledged and satisfied."

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His cousin expressed a similar eagerness to conclude the long-standing feud, and to live in amity with his kinsman. "Many are the injuries," he said, "my father had suffered at the hands of my uncless." uncle. Yet it is not my wish to continue the quarrel. Let my cousin but recognise and make good the claims of my family, and I'm willing even now there should be a reconciliation."

The elders of the town were delighted. At last there will be an end to the differences that have so long divided the end to the differences that have so long divided the two families, and the town be saved from the constant disturbance of the peace it had suffered Suffered ever since. There was only one difficulty. They could not discover what those differences were. The conference which was called for the purpose consisted of the oldest and wisest men of the place; but none conditions the content of the place; but none could say for certain what the exact circumstances stances were that brought about the original rupture between the two brothers. Nor could their sons assist the two brothers. sons assist them much in elucidating this matter. They only spoke vaguely of "great injuries," and so forth; but nothing definite by which a true decision could be arrived at. Their neighbours, who decision could be arrived at. Their neighbours, who came forward be arrived at. came forward to give evidence, indeed told many a gruesome tale of horrible deeds committed by the brothers again of horrible deeds committed by the brothers against each other. Judging, however, from the bitterness with which the opposing witnesses around the signal taunts they nesses argued, and from the occasional taunts they hurled at one another, it was evident that their testimony was be another, it was evident that their testimony was be another. mony was based upon their own personal quarrels, and was therefore dismissed as too partial to be of any value

any value.

Nevertheless, those who exerted themselves in this cause did not describe "The truth will have they set this cause did not despair. "The truth will have to come out," they said. And to this end they set to work with to work with a will that did them credit, and justified the farm a will that did them credit, and justice fied the fame they enjoyed in the whole district land. They divide an most learned men in the They divided themselves into several committees, each one to investigate a different aspect of the case and the case are th the case, each one to investigate a different aspects the case, and then to meet to report results. Many the sessions which the contentions are th such sessions were held, during which the contentious Cousing in any open brawls as was their wont, despite the fact that the content bardly a day passed without the one or the other tables. hardly a day passed without the one or the other missing his based without the one of his stables missing his best horse, or finding one of his stables hames or his horse, or finding one of his stables in flames, or his dog poisoned, or his fence broken down. Both bore these crimes in silence, although the land who the company that the same silence in silence although the company who the company where the company where where the company each knew who the criminal was. So did the wise men. But they also knew that these things were and would coase immediately this was discovered; would cease immediately this was discovered; which reason the original cause of the quarter which reason the mediately this was discovered; for which reason they wisely refrained from alluding to them at any of their prolonged and numerous

which there is a regular record the conference held no Wer there is a regular record the conference new le course of which and thirty-seven sessions, in le course of which the course of the the course of which many of the mediators died from the strain and fatigue of their task. But others the search.

The search.

The cousins, meanwhile, owing, no doubt, to their to above, lost their standing and reputation at the reduce, and from pressure borse-dealers became horse-dealers. As reduced to the position of small kitchen-farmers. As Seeings more cordial.

Seeing more cordial.

Well-wisher desperate state, a distant relative and hutte part in the deliberations of the conference (and was, indeed, not greatly distinguished by his

wit or intelligence) stood up at one of the sittings and meekly said that "as the mass of evidence accumulating daily only tends to make the issue of the dispute more obscure and contradictory, and has but so far led to the impoverishment of the principal parties concerned—to say nothing of the consequences to the rest of the population—perhaps—may I suggest—?

"What!" cried both cousins almost in one voice, "Forget the past? Forgive the dreadful injuries our parents have suffered? Leave those terrible wrongs unredressed and unrequited? Never!

One day, while the good people, who were so earnestly endeavouring to bring about a reconciliation, were investigating some new facts that had just come to light, a messenger came running in breathless and

"Dead!" he exclaimed. "The cousins are dead! Found in a ditch between their adjoining fields. They're there now-still clutching at each other's throats. Come and see!

For that day the sitting was interrupted. But it was resumed the following morning with redoubled vigour, in full confidence that it would one day discover the original cause of the quarrel.

If we are to credit the accounts lately received from that remote corner of the Empire, it would appear that the conference is still sitting.

The Helping Hand and Modern Novels.

By Bernard Causton.

"Anyone who pretends to understand Ulysses throughout is deceiving others or himself. But the general idea of it is understandable-it is in brief the denial of the human soul. It is the idea that the truth about a man is the little separate bits of him, the tiny physical acts, the thwarted semi-conscious desires, the broken memories.'

So runs the substance of Mr. Gerald Gould's recent indictment of the psychological, the "sinister" trend in modern fiction, represented, for Mr. Gould at any rate, by Mr. James Joyce and Mr. D. H. Lawrence.

The ground of Mr. Gould's plaint, as of that of Mr.

Alan Porter's in the Spectator, and F. M.'s in the Criterion, is not hard to find; each of them views the introspection, which abounds in the characterisation of the novels of Messrs. Joyce and Lawrence, as symptometric of int. the tomatic of just that excessive "individualism" of character which fails to develop the best potentialities of the human and the character which fails to develop the best potentialities of the human and the character which fails to develop the best potentialities of the human and the character which the character which is the character which i ties of the human personality in so far as it aggra-vates the introvertive tendency of the isolated individuality by leading him to regard all endeavours to bring him into social co-operation as encroachment

upon the sphere of his personality's development.

But Mr. Gould himself, in "An Essay in Philosophy and Religion for the Unhappy," which he entitles "The Helping Hand," has stated the opposite side of the case to which he has only given one-sided expression in his moral strictures upon the insided expression in his moral strictures upon the introvertive tendencies of certain modern novelists: "Laws must be kept, yet if no one ever broke an established law there would be no progress, no advance in the kind of law that gets established.

We have suffered from hearing so many ineffectual attempts to bridge with some superficial formula the too long ignored conflicting factors which are not to be reconciled by some "pons asinorum" of a professional platitudinarian: "The solution of the Labour Problem is the mutual and the solution of the Labour Problem is the mutual understanding of Employers and Employed." "One of the lessons which the late war has taught us is that the world is an Economic

How familiar are these political instances, and the echoes of the exasperation we felt on hearing them

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expressed instead of the analysis of the root grievance, like open and dirty sores which need rather to be cleansed and cauterised than be healed up, a festering inflammation in the making by the application of boracic ointment.

"He saw life sanely and saw it whole," can only be the merited judgment upon a rounded personality, fit product of an age of temperamental harmony, and is nothing but bathos when it is the appraisement of some half-baked character whose stunted susceptibilities preclude him from envisaging his own disqualifications for the rôle of arbiter of character.

We do not mean for a moment to include any of the three above-mentioned critics in this latter category, for they would be the first to admit that, even in the case of those of one's friends who most seem to have achieved a full development of their potentialities, it is rather their comments on trivialities which most express the completeness of their personality rather than any attempt on their part to give utterance to their whole scheme of weltanschauung which they are made all the more reluctant to put into words by that very lack of presumptuous self-assertion which renders their inferiors overprone to moralise.

If our critics must persist in regarding the novel as a sanatorium for class-conscious neurotics in which the characterisation must be conditioned by the need of a "reassuring" bed-side manner, let them bear in mind that for such a chronic malady analysis is a necessary preliminary to "suggestion" of co-ordinated consciousness.

Reviews.

The Witness. By Jessie Platts. (Hutchinson. 5s. net.)

This book consists of extracts from messages received by Mrs. Platts from her son "Tiny," who was killed in action on April 28, 1917. The messages were received by Mrs. 1918. messages were received and recorded by her in 1918. She quotes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as saying of them, "The best I have read, and I have read a good many." Best! We prefer the foreword to the messages—Tiny in this world to Tiny in the spirit world. When he wanted to enter the Service he was told by his mother that he was under no obligation told by his mother that he was under no obligation to serve on account of his extreme youth (17½), but he answered: "Mother, if a chap does his duty, other things come, and no one ever dies till his time's up, and then the prick of a pin may do it." But when he crosses to the "other side" he is very disappointing. In spite of being in close contact with the "Master Christ" and in frequent consultation with all departed theologians and scientists, he has nothing to say that adds to our knowledge. He has been taught a lot about "ether," "radium," and so on, but does not say what. His "body," he says, "is just the same as it was on earth, and I've still so on, but does not say what. His "body," he says, "is just the same as it was on earth, and I've still got the scar on my cheek" and "the mark of the bullet in my head which killed me last year." Immediately he proceeds to say that, "Sometimes men come over here who have had their arms or legs or heads blown away. Well, it doesn't make any difference to them here, they are whole and unhurt." difference to them here, they are whole and unhurt. Evidently there is some sort of beauty test on the other side. Then we are introduced to Bruno, who is reported to have expressed the view that "there is slowly springing up in the United States of America the nucleus of a very great nation" which "will develop on the very highest spiritual lines, and be filled with the love of God and our Master Christ." "This coming nation will exercise an enormous power for good over the rest of the world."
We'll see. The "Junkers" brought about the war.
That's not very new. "The Germans have asked for war; they must have it till their very inmost souls shriek for peace. . . " "Well, boys, let's give 'em hell, and no quarter." Oh dear!

Does his Master Christ know what he is saying? "We are learning, too, from a man who was once very famous on the earth, and his name is Francis of Assisi." Then, "To us the Germans appear so hideous that we can hardly bear to look at them." There are 283 pages of this "best I have read" for those who like the control of the those who like the samples.

Gas. By George Kaiser. Translated by H. G. Scheffauer. (Chapman and Dodd. 3s. 6d. net.)

This third volume of Messrs. Chapman and Dodd's "New European Library" is fittingly devoted to the work of an author whose keen insight and relentless dissection of contemporary (are they also eternal?) social phenomena places him in the van of the small group of writers who realise the need of a post-war synthesis, and who are busy about the satisfaction of that need. But Herr Kaiser is a dramatist as well as a socio-moralist. Working in the Expressionist method, he nevertheless constructs his play with as careful a regard for the ebb and flow of emotion as the most conservative craftsman would attempt. In this he may be favourably contrasted with his congeners, Toller, Capek, Elmer Rice, and the playwrights of the Aktion group. "Gas" is not merely an interesting, it is a great play, and its absence from the boards of a London playhouse leaves the Metropolitan theatre once more under reproach. The volume is illustrated with photographs of the recent Birmingham Repertory. Theatre's pathons are recent Birmingham Repertory. tory Theatre's rather uneven but laudable produc-Perhaps when Mr. Cedric Hardwicke, who played the leading role there, is in management for himself, he will give London a taste of himself in a work wherein he has already excelled.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE SINGLE TAX.

Sir,—Mr. Jones should make up his mind what his policy for reducing prices really is—Single Tax or Financial Reform. At present he does not seem to know. In one breath he tells us that the Single Tax will cause prices to that Tax will cause prices to drop, and in the next that in order to keep prices from rising the Single Taxers would prevent the Carting would prevent the Government from either inflating or deflating the currency. As the Single Tax is a a mode of deflation, as I pointed out in my previous letter, he is clearly advocating two conflicting policies. policies.

If the Single Tax can reduce prices, why monked with the currency? And if it has to be supplemented and bolstered up by currency regulation what becomes of its vaunted virtues? But Mr. Jones knows perfectly well that a virtues? perfectly well that currency regulation forms no part of the Single Tax programme. He merely introduces it here to help him out of a hole.

His declaration that the Single Taxers will make the Government do this or that with the currency will raise a smile. Governmental policy in financial matters is controlled by the taxet. matters is controlled by the banks; and it will continue to be, so long as the present general ignorance of the principles of finance prevails. If the Single Taxers were to prevent the Taxers were to prevent the Government from inflating the currency, the nation's income could never increase; and if they were to prevent it from deflating the currency. within the bounds of the present financial system it is impossible to have both is impossible to have both results at the same time. If we want increased incomes we must put up with high prices; and if we want low prices we must content ourselves with and low prices we must content ourselves with and tent ourselves with reduced incomes. Credit policy is the only one that can increase in comes and reduce prices simultaneously.

Mr. Jones asks for denials. I am happy oblige. I deny that the Single Tax by itself, accompanied by increased financial operations, would bring ware local denial operations. would bring more land into use. If it were instrumental in forcing unused land into use is could only

be by forcing dearer used land out of use; for one point out of many that Single Taxers constantly overlook is that the amount of land put to use is governed by the amount of products that can profitably be sold. If the effective (money) demand for products increases beyond the existing capacity to produce, more land will be brought into use, but not before. The Single Tax is designed to cut the item of rent out of costs; and Mr. Jones infers therefrom that the cheapening of costs will increase the demand for goods. What he does not see, but ought to see, is that total demand cannot increase, because his process of reducing costs automatically Cuts off (money) demand to the same extent. Mr. Jones may find it difficult to understand how that

can be, but it is so, whether he does or not.

An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory. In 1919 and 1920 costs were high, production was at a maximum, and there was no unemployment problem. To-day, costs are very much lower, production is at a low ebb, 2,000,000 acres are said to have gone out of culting. out of cultivation, and we have about a million men unemployed. Evidently something more than a reduction in costs is needed to bring land into use and keep it so.

I deny, categorically, (I) that competition will cause the reduction in costs to be passed on to consumers in general through a fall in prices: what A gains B Sains B will lose; (2) that each producer will turn out more goods; (3) that the total goods offered on demand will be greater; (4) that the total money prices might fall they would fall relatively to total incomes.

Mr. Jones asserts that the aggregate of prices would not be less after eliminating rents from costs. If he can take the item of rent out of costs, as he prices he If he can take the item of rent out of costs, as he must in order the item of rent out of costs, he is not be item of rent out of costs. must in order to give us the reduction in prices he has promised. has promised us, and yet leave aggregate prices the same as before, he is a wonder-worker. His talent of magic; and I freely admit that in the realm apply.

He appears, also, to imagine that the Single Tax taxation as well, in some mysterious way. He may, in the likes, call the manual to landlords rent, if he likes, call the money paid to landlords rent, in which case the Single Tax could be said to effect in a saving in taxation, a saving in taxation; or he may regard it as taxation, But there is only one and to be a saving in rent.

But there is only one saving, not two.

He says, too, that "a money income which will in the hands of the individual who possesses it," and fact. H. M. M.'s inability to grasp this simple some to grasp it is to be found.

H. M. M.

SIR, I am terribly puzzled with all this to do bankers have what standard. Why can't we let the poor rather have a legal tender of Government paper and it on paper and to parliament to keep it steady, but why force trust to people, don't want gold, it is to parliament to keep it steady, but why force longer legal tender of Government paper and it on unwilling bankers? All we have to do in Covernlegal tender and has nothing to do with the heal in it. I notes, then the barassed financiers can longer longer longer, then the barassed financiers can longer lo d in it to their hearts' content and export or imnake shiploads of it if they want to. They could have freedom for all, and not oppress bankers between they happen to be a minority. I hope THE New Age will rally to their relief.

Pastiche.

NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES. By OLD AND CRUSTED. "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE."

"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to-day; for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

The Duke and the Dean are very thick nowadays; an alliance, by the way, which is regarded with scant approval by the "Biretta," which would prefer to see this sorely plagued land ruled by a hybrid policy the joint product of the Prime Minister and the official leader of the Conservative Party. This entente cordiale between the patrician and the parson has resulted in the latter doing a weekly "Pastiche' for the Morning Troglodyte with a very catholic choice of subjects and which might well appear under the heading "New Vinegar in Old Cruets." It must, however, be admitted that said Pastiche is a vast improvement on the general run of journalism such as issues from Carmelite House for example. Two penn'orth of Pride and Prejudice is better value any day than a

penn'orth of Daily Dope—pictures included.

Admirers of John Jorrocks, that is to say, all good fellows, will remember the scene in "Handley Cross" in the parlour, when the sporting tea merchant and James Pigg were spending the evening discussing hunting and

Pigg were spending the evening discussing hunting and toasting the 'ounds in much brandy and water. After drinking Mercury and Affable, Mountebank and Milliner, Crowner and Lousey, Mr. Jorrocks said:

"Look out of the vinder, James, and see wot sort of a night it is. . . " James staggered up and after a momentary grope about the room—for they were sitting without candles—exclaimed, "Hellish dark, and smells of cheese!" "Smells o' cheese!" repeated Mr. Jorrocks looking round; "vy, man, you've got your nob in the cupboard—this be the vinder."

It strikes me very forcibly that quite a number of our prize

cupboard—this be the vinder."

It strikes me very forcibly that quite a number of our prize publicists, not to mention the League of Nations, have got their "nobs" in the cupboard instead of out of "vinder"!

If, however, we substitute gunpowder or poison gas for cheese we shall get a very fair idea of the Dean's conception of the state of the world's affairs or "Weltanschauung," to use his own expression.

By the way, the M.T. might to use his own expression. By the way, the M.T. might spell the German word correctly, for, by omitting the "c" it has practically coined a word that would signify a process of cosmic cutting up with whips or swords—which is, perhaps, unintentionally prophetic!

THE STRANGELING.

The little lads are all loosed out From classroom cages for a space;
And you may see them leap about
Like leverets in a sunny place. But one there is who now and then Stands for a second all apart; And as he felt the calm of men, Its colding kiss upon his heart! For grave is he, and grim, and wise, With mighty movings none may share;
Dark seas surge strangely in his eyes,
Dark shadows shift among his hair. The others will go one by one To manhood and its mystery, But when the playing-time is done
Where shall this little strangeling be? And they will let the window-panes Of cottages peep through their life,
And walk along the narrow lanes,
And take a red-cheeked maid to wife. But he must chafe, and fret, and stay A lad dream-driven and desolate Until Time pulses to a day
That frees his feet to follow Fate. Oh! where are windows wide to see Oh! where are windows wide to see
The mazy highroad dreamers take,
And light the lands of agony
The Far Forlorn where dreamers wake! O'er-soon the playing-time is done And lads from lads begin to grow, But he shall never fashion one
To share the sweet ache he must know, O shouts that make my village glad! O shouts that make my village global of dirge-dark eyes of you who wear O lad, O little longful lad, A calm of shadows in your hair!

A. NEWBERRY CHOYCE.

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