THE

NEW AGE

INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	253
Mr. Spender on Mahmud Pasha—the Universities as masonic lodges—*The Party System* on inter-marriage between party-political families. American prosperity—Sir George Paish—and the "catastrophe." Mr. Britten Austen on the Bank and the gold standard. The Police Commission Report.	
THE SOCIAL CREDIT SITUATION. By C. H. Douglas	255
Major Douglas's speech at THE NEW AGE Dinner, March 23.	
CRADLE TO MATRICULATION.—I. By Arthur B. Allen	258
A Constructive Analysis of the Examination Problem.	
DRAMA. By Paul Banks.	259
The Berg. The Pleasure Garden.	
MUSIC. By Kaikhosru Sorabji	260
Music in Rome—Signora dal Monte.	
THE SCREEN PLAY. By David Ockham .	261
The Lost Patrol. De Millk and Water.	
A CHILD'S COSMOGONY. By Neil Montgomery	261
The Child's Conception of the World. (Piaget.)	
COLOUR AND LIFE. By L. S.	262
The Little Art Rooms. The Leicester Galleries.	
REVIEWS	262
The Memoirs of Raymond Poincaré, Vol. III. Through Hungarian Eyes. Local Geography. Block Models Illustrating Geological Structures. The British in Tropical Africa. Through a Yellow Glass. The Minutes.	
LETTER TO THE EDITOR	263
From Roland Berrill.	

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is useful for the student to read the gossip features in the newspapers. They are not so carefully edited as the news and leader items; and occasionally remarks and incidents are recorded which, though merely entertaining to the average reader, have an inner meaning for those who are trained to look for it. For instance, some months ago, on the occasion of a fashionable wedding, it transpired that the bridegroom had been private secretary to the Prince of Wales and to two (if not three) successive Prime Ministers, including Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. We have forgotten the other names, but they do not matter: the point of significance is that this gentleman should have been privy to the more intimate concerns not only of the Royal Family but of the heads of Governments of different party complexions. It appears as though, just as Ministers of the Crown have to inherit the services of the permanent officials of their respective Departments, so do Prime Ministers take office and conduct policy under the scrutiny of a permanent confidential secretary. It is not unlikely that there is an unwritten law to ensure the continuity of this super-party incarnation of advisership and supervision. It is very much as if there should be a permanent wife provided at Downing Street, and every Prime Minister had to be her husband while he held that office. Whereas these husbands would "die" by the fiats of an electorate, the wife would live for ever. They would be forgotten; but she would never forget. She would be the mother of policy and the guardian of its continuity.

* * *

Another illustration occurs in Mr. J. A. Spender's gossip column in the *Daily News* of Thursday last, "People and Politics."

> The Prime Minister of Egypt, Mahmud Pasha, is an old Oxford and Balliol man; and as one of the same clan, I can but feel a little glow of satisfaction at the tribute which he paid to his old College and University in a speech at Victoria College, Alexandria, on Monday. There were four of us—Lord Milner, Sir Rennell Rodd, Mahmud, and myself—with the same academic allegiance when the Egyptian delegates came over to negotiate with the Milner Mission in 1920; and Lord Curzon, another of the clan, who was at the Foreign Office, remarked genially that we must try not to 'look too much like a Balliol conspiracy.' . . . I only wish that Oxford and Cambridge should find room for more Egyptian students."

That the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton is a less comprehensive truth than that all John Bull's diplomatic victories have begun at a Boat Race. In this aspect of University education every College at Oxford and Cambridge is a masonic lodge. Every young man whose antecedents mark him as a possible aspirant for high office in the State is watched from the moment he enters his Public School. When he goes to his University a confidential dossier passes from the School authorities to the College authorities, in which his record is more exhaustively recorded than in any Scotland Yard record of convictions against a criminal. While he is at College his dossier grows. How he shapes at his educational studies, what sports he favours, what his personal character is, what views he expresses in the Union debates, what his health is, whether he is "psychic"—everything, almost to the colour of his eyes, is assembled in this document for the information of the "Grand Masters" of the State, who have the ultimate power of veto on his projected career. That is how government comes to be administrated by what may be called "The Right People," whether the system be called democratic, autocratic or anything else. Such administrators may be Conservative, Liberal, or Labour. That is nothing. The vital consideration is that they are Masons.

* * *

Hilaire Belloc's and Cecil Chesterton's book *The Party System* (1913) contained pages of facts which serve to illustrate the results of this system of secret centralised nomination. They dealt, it is true, with the question of inter-marriage in Ministerial circles, their object being to show that Party antagonisms were not the slightest barrier to family alliances: but in showing this, as they did most easily, they

were also confirming the wider thesis now under discussion. In a powerful summing up they wrote the following passage:

"But, it may be asked, is there anything wrong in men differing in politics yet remaining on friendly terms in private life? Is there any reason why a man should not marry a woman because her family belongs to the political party opposed to his? Not the least in the world. Such things would naturally happen in the most real and earnest political conflict. But they would happen as exceptions; there would be perhaps one or two such cases in every generation. When we find such things not exceptional, but universal, we may safely say that we are not considering a certain number of examples of personal sympathy or attraction over-riding political differences, but a general system of government by a small, friendly, and closely inter-related clique. We are not surprised at Romeo loving Juliet, though he is a Montague and she a Capulet. But if we found in addition that Lady Capulet was by birth a Montague, that Lady Montague was the first cousin of old Capulet, that Mercutio was at once the nephew of a Capulet, and the brother-in-law of a Montague, that Count Paris was related on his father's side to one house and on his mother's side to the other, that Tybald was Romeo's uncle's stepson, and that the Friar who married Romeo and Juliet was Juliet's uncle and Romeo's first cousin once removed, we should probably conclude that the feud between the two houses was being kept up mainly for the dramatic entertainment of the people of Verona."

We do not quote this passage with the same motive as its authors wrote it. They were proving the imposture of party politics so far as it purported to be a real fight between politicians reflecting a real conflict between bodies of electors. Their work was needed, and its usefulness is unimpaired at this time—sixteen years afterwards. But during those sixteen years, and particularly during the last ten of them, we have realised a new interpretation of it, and see a way in which to utilise the facts in a constructive direction. For instance, what made Messrs. Belloc's and Chesterton's exposure seem so scandalous, so intolerable even, in 1913, was the antecedent assumption that the power of controlling policy rested in the hands of these politicians, and that the betterment of economic and social conditions depended upon there being a real battle between those of them who were "progressive" and those who were not. In 1929 a large body of people, rapidly increasing, realise that the assumption is an illusion, and that the control lies elsewhere and is entirely unaffected by political victories. In fact, a civil war among Ministers to-day would tend rather to consolidate the power of the banking system than to weaken it. For the end which THE NEW AGE has in view, this free-masonry in high political circles is more likely to be a help than a hindrance. We can reasonably regard the inter-marriage process as one which is welding the non-financial elements of society. Our objective can be most easily furthered by a unification of Parties; so that unification at the Altar may easily become the foundation of unification in the House some day.

* * *

Social Credit has abolished every cause for antagonisms about economic policy. It has shown the possibility of a fair deal on a financial basis between all classes of society; and in England—this repository of the sporting spirit—a fair deal means peaceful co-operation in action without regard to the relative fortunes of the parties to the deal. It is not impossible that the truth of the Douglas Theorem will first be recommended by the permanent administrators of the present system to the Cabinet of the Government in power at any given time. If the Civil Service, which has had the onerous task of preserving some sort of equilibrium by patchwork emergency methods under the present financial system, finds this task impossible—as we know will prove to be the case—it will have to declare it, and in that event any Government would not only have to adopt the obvious alternative policy which we offer, but the Opposition Leaders would know that they also would have to do so if they displaced the Government and took office. In that way the Social Credit ideas could become an agreed Parliamentary policy. In any case we want to see all the elements of society outside the financial system proper—the borrowing elements as opposed to the lending elements—as closely bound as possible by as many ties as possible. Let them eat together, drink together, club together, marry together and be merry together. They will be rehearsing for the great To-morrow, when the last discordance will have been destroyed, and every masonry will enrol itself under the Grand Super-Order of Consumers.

* * *

The passage in Major Douglas's speech at THE NEW AGE Dinner on Saturday which impressed us most was his statement that America's policy was to do anything rather than let her citizens down from the level of prosperity they were now enjoying. That policy, within the framework of orthodox principles of loaning money and costing production, means maintained (and even increased) exportation from the United States. Europe must either resist it or prepare to absorb these exports either by direct receipt or by suffering their entry into other markets. But there is no form of resistance which, if persisted in, will not take the ultimate form of war. The alternative of absorption means economic suicide under bankers' law. The whole problem thus becomes one of whether the law can be altered, or widened, or—as the New Testament says—fulfilled, in order to avoid the catastrophe. Is there an effective scheme of absorption-finance? That is the vital question for Europe's statesmen, and for British statesmen in particular, if war is to be avoided. The answer we know. The Price Regulation proposals of Major Douglas are the missing last piece of the puzzle. They open up the opportunity for Britain to follow the Christian injunction to turn her cheek to the smiter—to submit to the dreaded foreign exports, and turn them to her financial advantage. The urgent necessity for the realisation of this possibility to be considered is plainly to be seen in the hopeless utterance of Sir George Paish a few days ago. He seems to have bought the wreath for Britain. The crash which, a year ago, he warned us was dangerously near, is now, he declares, unavoidable. It is just possible that the crash he is thinking of is a crash of financial figures. Of course it is his business to associate that with a concrete crash in economic life. But it is the business of statesmen to dissociate the two things, and to show the bankers that there is a vital element in the situation which will not obey the logic of the ledger.

* * *

Mrs. Westrup has just published a digest* of the writings of her husband, Dr. Alfred B. Westrup, on financial and economic subjects. Dr. Westrup is probably the oldest pioneer of financial reform alive to-day, and is certainly one of its most indefatigable advocates. He has been a familiar lecturer in Hyde Park for many years. His thesis is briefly as follows:

The cause of poverty is a restricted money supply. Money is indispensable in modern economy. What it is made of does not matter so long as people agree to use it. Business people should co-operatively supply themselves with it, and not go to money-lenders. They should issue credit secured on their capital (mortgage deeds or warehouse receipts for goods) and their deposit of securities should entitle them to membership of Associations which would issue the credits. They would become a sort of mutual credit-supply organisation. The emphasis is on the principle that credit should be *secured*.

* The World Message. By Maud Denning Westrup. Part I. Published by the Author, 24, Rose Street, Long Acre, W.C.2. 36 pp. 3s. 6d.

"Secured credit," Dr. Westrup defines as "debit incurred with ample provision to insure payment." Thus, a promissory note is not secured credit according to his interpretation of the principle—neither are bank notes. The only limit to the quantity of secured credit which can safely be issued is the limit of the security. "You can create as much paper money as you have security to deposit." The value of such security he measures by what it will fetch "if sold in the public market."

* * *

The scheme, as here set out, does not sound effective. If the institution of the Credit Association is intended to widen the borrowing powers of business people, this objective appears to be frustrated by the conditions imposed. If, say, Mr. Brown has a "security" which can be sold in the public market for £1,000, the banker will lend him money on it, because the banker could sell it if the loan were not repaid. The banker would want a margin, but so would Dr. Westrup's proposed Association. The specified "ample provision to insure payment" means this. Generalising, it is roughly reasonable to say that the total "security" nominally owned by industry is valued at something like ten times the total money in existence, let alone the question of what proportion of that money is available in the "public market" for buying the security. So if industry became its own banker, and based its loans to its members on the *negotiability* of their aggregated securities, the total amount it could lend would have to be at the very most something less than one tenth of the nominal value. In other words, the volume of its loans would be just about the same as the present volume of bankers' loans.

* * *

Now, if Dr. Westrup had proposed that the Association should base its loans on the *cost* of the "security" (i.e., the amount of money spent in the past on acquiring industrial assets) he would have opened up the prospect of a tremendous increase in the Association's loans. For instance, the British railway system itself would qualify to raise £1,000 millions. What would happen if it did, and if every other business concern followed suit, is another matter. The present point is that Dr. Westrup does not offer the producing borrower any more financial accommodation that he gets at present.

* * *

Mr. F. Britten Austin has a sensible kinder-garten article on the gold standard in the *Sunday Pictorial* of March 17. He says that we have not got a gold *standard*, but rather a gold *lever* under the fabric of society; also, that the transfer of gold between countries does nothing more than *symbolise* the transfer of credit. He declares that the plus or minus of a few million pounds worth of gold does not in the least affect the intrinsic wealth of this country, and then points out that the recent raising of the Bank Rate to protect gold "violently annihilated" a large proportion of the total "negotiable wealth" of the country. Mr. F. Britten Austin is only one more of a rapidly increasing number of writers who are discovering that the Trust Press will pay money for articles criticising Bank Policy. The publication of such articles, if it does nothing else, at least symbolises a change in public opinion or public feeling—a withdrawal of confidence hitherto reposed in the presumed omniscience of the Credit Monopoly. To that extent the phenomenon is significant. But men do not gather grapes of symbols. It will be time to rejoice if and when all this gathering criticism crystallises into a constructive policy directly linked to the human individual's problem of securing food, clothes and shelter. Short of price-regulation there is no such policy; and discussions of something else—whatever it is—are hot air.

The Social Credit Situation.

By Major C. H. Douglas.

(Speech at "The New Age" Dinner on March 23.)

As the present occasion may be said to represent the tenth anniversary of the launching of the proposals with which THE NEW AGE has come conspicuously to be associated, it appears to me to be a favourable opportunity, in the first place, to review the progress which has been made in that period, and to offer some observations as to the probable trend of events in the near future.

Looking round upon the world, and the grave difficulties in which its various peoples are still involved, it might occur to a superficial observer that proposals which make such large claims as a solvent for material difficulties cannot have made very much progress, or their results would be evident. But I think that such a comment would be misplaced. In the first place it has to be remembered that the proposals involve changes in mechanism, and that the results of them cannot become evident until these changes are actually made and in operation. We cannot, therefore, judge the condition of our interests in this matter in the same way that we might, for instance, comment on the progress of a building and say, "This, that, or the other storey of it is now approaching completion." Nothing of this kind has so far been accomplished. It might even be said that the difficulties of the eventual builders of the structure on which our hopes are fixed have been materially increased during the last few years by the activities of those who do not desire that the existing building should either be replaced or altered. At the moment representative bankers of the world are meeting in Paris with the primary objective of riveting yet more firmly the chains of an obsolete financial system on the peoples of the world. It has to be remembered that antecedent to the actual construction work on any great project a great deal of hard work, and perhaps the hardest of all work, has to be done. The minds of the public have to be prepared, they have to be educated to see the desirability of the proposed work, plans have to be drawn, and a staff of workmen has to be marshalled in readiness for the concrete effort.

If we look at this aspect of our labour I do not think that it is necessary for us either unduly to blame ourselves or to be depressed at the progress which has been made.

Those of you who can take your minds back to the years immediately succeeding the European War, and who were interested in the problems of Industrial Organisation and the resolution of the friction between what are called "Employers and Employed," will remember that the thoughts of the world at large, to the extent that it was interested in these subjects, were obsessed by problems of administration. The Shop Steward movement in industry, which was the inheritor of the Syndicalist movement of the early days of the century, hailed the Bolshevik revolution in Russia as the incarnation of its own ideals. The more theoretical Socialists of the type of Mr. Sidney Webb and the Fabian Society in general were still holding the blessed word "Nationalisation" as a panacea for all ills, although the widespread experience of life under the multiplicity of Government Departments during the latter years of the war had, I think, effectively disillusioned the general public as to the virtues of this particular remedy.

When, therefore, THE NEW AGE and those associated with it announced with a firmness which their candid critics labelled as "cocksure" that the salvation of the world was not to be found in committees, soviets, or nationalisation, but that its difficulties arose from a defective financial system, and that

these can easily be remedied without affecting the administrative relationships which experience has proved to be both satisfactory and effective, the announcement in the first place was received with about the same enthusiasm that would be accorded to it by the Elgin Marbles. But it is a testimony to the vital nature of the message that we have to convey, that this period of calm was of astonishingly short duration. Within twelve months, and for a period of two or three years, the proposals that we put forward received wide-spread discussion, not always conducted in an atmosphere of calm detachment, and even in that short period of time reduced the propaganda both of nationalisation in its old sense, and still more the committee system of industrial management, to the position of mere doctrinaire ideals.

So rapid was the progress made by these ideas between 1919 and 1923 both in this country and abroad, and so constantly did ideas derived from them appear in the pages of the Press that the interests threatened by them because considerably alarmed, and took what were, on the whole, effective steps to curtail their publicity. In this country the Institute of Bankers allocated five million pounds to combat the subversive ideas of ourselves and other misguided people who wished to tinker with the financial system. The large Press Associations were expressly instructed that my own name should not be mentioned in the public Press, and no metropolitan newspaper in this country or the United States was allowed to give publicity either to correspondence or to contributions bearing upon the subject. In spite of this the Canadian Parliamentary Inquiry at which I was a witness managed to expose on the one hand the ignorance of even leading bankers of the fundamental problems with which they had to deal, and on the other hand the lengths to which the financial power was prepared to go to retain control of the situation.

Perhaps as a result of this inquiry, the boycott of the subject became almost complete, and if such methods could have been effective there is no doubt that the agitation which we had initiated would have died away. But it has always been my personal opinion that the force on which we had to rely was not principally propaganda, but rather the awakening of public opinion, once it had been given the lead, to the explanation of the facts of the everyday world; and that awakening has taken place and is to-day taking place with tremendous rapidity. The process through which our idea went during the period 1918-1923 might be likened to the sowing of the seed. It was thinly, but very widely sown. During the last five years the seed has been driven underground.

Though you will see very little about THE NEW AGE or the Douglas Theory in the popular Press, you will see pages of criticism of the Bank of England, the Federal Reserve Board, and the International Debt Policy, and if you are sufficiently interested you will recognise phrases, and even whole sentences, extracted without acknowledgment from the "Notes of the Week," so ably maintained by Mr. Brenton.

It has to be remembered that, unlike the movements commonly called socialistic, which on the whole have been class movements, this steady growth of public opinion as to the vital part played by the financial system in the efforts of mankind is not confined to any one class. It is common ground with the industrialist, the farmer, the landowner, and even the stockbroker: the interest in it is growing daily. I believe most fervently that we are at the very threshold of an awakening which may well alter the history of civilisation. In the British Isles alone there are two political parties which consider Social Credit the core of their policy.

It is an easy process of reasoning from the recognition of the vital nature of the financial system to the apprehension of the part which must be played by the nation which is the most powerful financially.

Partly as a result of the war, partly as the result of the criminal ignorance of our own statesmen of the underlying principles of finance, and quite probably partly as a result of grandiose world-policy on the part of international organisations, the pinnacle of financial power since the war, and more particularly since the peace, has been achieved by the United States. Because I believe that the next ten years will be critical in the history of the world, and that the leading part in that crisis will be played by the U.S.A., I propose to detain you to-night with a short examination of the situation of that great power in its bearing on our particular problem.

No understanding of the critical situation of the United States in its relations to the outer world is possible without recognising the course its development has taken. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the North American continent possessed for all practical purposes two small populated areas situated on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards, separated by three thousand miles of undeveloped and very rich continental land. Removed to a large extent from European interests, and from the political and social problems of an older civilisation, the United States contained within its own borders a practically unlimited field of what might be called "export markets." In other words, to use an Irishism, "it expanded internally." This unlimited field for the exercise of the industrial arts undoubtedly produced a rate of economic progress unparalleled elsewhere, and afforded a proof, if any were needed, of how intensely artificial are the restrictions upon progress of this description which normally fetter older countries obliged to seek for markets abroad.

This process of internal development had begun to slow up before the European War, but this event afforded a fresh impetus to development and at the same time educated the American public, whose insularity was previously very marked, to look abroad for markets. Passing over this period we find that 1918 left the United States physically unexhausted, and both financially and in a realistic sense immensely enriched by the struggle which had swept Europe.

Nevertheless, the same causes which had contributed to the tremendous expansion of productive capacity had also been operative in Europe, and particularly in Great Britain. In both hemispheres there was a post-war boom, in both hemispheres there was a period, beginning simultaneously in 1920, of severe financial deflation, and the unemployment figures in the United States were variously stated to be between six and ten millions. This policy of deflation has been pursued in Great Britain, and continues, with the result that unemployment has become chronic, industrial undertakings have been broken up, and the country at the present time is saturated with a spirit of defeat, such as the war was never able to produce. I shall return to this feature of the situation later.

In the United States, however, the policy of deflation was reversed within six months. Industrialists were encouraged to borrow money on easy terms, and the public, instead of being deafened with the insane cry of "consume less and produce more," was not only encouraged to buy, up to the extent of its resources, but was assisted to increase its resources by every device possible within the orbit of the existing financial system.

As a result the production of the United States in 1928 as compared with 1913 is 38 per cent. greater, while that of Great Britain is 30 per cent. less; that is to say, the absolute rate of progress of the United States is double that existing in this country. This

state of affairs has been reflected in an immensely high standard of living. The average locomotive driver of an American railway owns two motor cars, one for himself and one for his wife, and thinks nothing of paying £200 for a radio receiving set.

As contrasted with the spirit of defeat which is prevalent in Great Britain, the normal citizen of the United States is confident that he has not only achieved success, and that his country is the greatest country in the world, but he is satisfied that this success will be cumulative, and that the old days of alternative boom and slump are gone for ever. Whatever may be the eventual outcome of this situation, one cannot help feeling that our statesmen and bankers who are responsible (and without doubt they are responsible) for the extraordinary divergence between this country and the United States in the short space of eight years must sometimes be driven to wonder whether the "thirty pieces of silver" are on the whole sufficient compensation for the situation they have produced.

Out of this situation one clear and undisputable fact emerges. The American public has tasted material prosperity far in excess of that achieved by any other people at any time, and it is absolutely united in the determination that this prosperity shall continue.

No American statesman could last for one week if it became known that his policy stood in the way of this objective.

Now, for reasons which will be familiar to most of you here, it is inevitable that this continuous industrial expansion demands an increasing export market. It is also certain that the financial position of the United States under the existing conventions places its nationals in a position to impose foreign loans over an increasingly wide area, and that the inevitable affect of these foreign loans is to make it possible to impose American productions upon the borrowing country. Any slackness in this process would mean unemployment in the United States, and unemployment on a large scale would not be contemplated by either the political or industrial leaders. The unemployment, therefore, which is inevitable from the progress of the industrial arts will be imposed upon the commercial rivals of America, and in particular the British Empire. That is the situation with which the world is faced to-day. Its symptoms may be various and obscure, but, in my opinion, it is a disease of which the world may easily die. Its only cure is a radical reform of the financial system of such a nature as would remove the alternative of increased exports or penal unemployment.

Within the last month the new President of the United States has taken office. Mr. Hoover is an engineer of great capacity and with wide knowledge of the world. I think he is perfectly familiar with the problem as I have just stated it, and I think it is very probable that if he were a free agent we should witness a spectacular adjustment of the problem. But he is not a free agent. His Cabinet contains such men as Mr. Andrew Mellon, the ideal of banking interests, Mr. Robert Lamont, also closely connected with banking, and Mr. C. F. Adams, Secretary of the Navy, closely identified with a big Navy policy. Their financial interests make it quite certain that the continued supremacy of the financial system will be their first care. In these circumstances we are faced, I think, with the situation provided by a country having both the financial power and the financial knowledge to carry out whatever policy will most conduce to the continued prosperity of the existing financial system. That policy inevitably must be a pan-American policy and a policy of continual and accelerated commercial expansion.

What the result of this upon the rest of the world will be, and in particular upon the British Empire, which appears to be directed by statesmen and financiers who have apparently learnt nothing and forgotten nothing in the past hundred years, only time will show.

We are operating under a system which has certain inherent and vital defects. These defects tend to produce and to aggravate both internal and international difficulties. Unfortunately, the means of enlightening the general public as to the real cause of these difficulties, by which I refer to the public Press, organised speech-making, and broadcasting organisation and mass publicity in general, are all dependent for their existence on financial support. Consequently, to put it quite bluntly, they dare not indicate the cause of the trouble.

I do not myself believe that we can take to ourselves credit, either in this room, or even as a generation, for being the first discoverers of the true cause of the trouble, although I think probably we have added something to the stock of knowledge of it. I believe it has been discovered several times before, notably about a hundred years ago, and in every case general knowledge of it has been suppressed and the troubles caused by it have been used as an argument for some form of centralisation of power, of which the latest form comes under the name of "Rationalisation."

In my opinion there is no fundamental difference between "Rationalisation" as sponsored by Lord Melchett and Sir Herbert Samuel, and Nationalisation as sponsored by the Socialist Party, and I believe that the propaganda in regard to them comes from the same source. They are both of them policies for reducing the individual to an impotent unit in an overwhelmingly powerful mechanism. It is admittedly unwise to commit oneself to a statement as to when probable events will occur, but I think it must be obvious to any student of public affairs, that forces are now operating to produce some sort of a crisis, and possibly many sorts of crises, within a comparatively short time.

I should not be honest if I gave it as my opinion that such a radical reform as we desire is at all likely to take place so long as the credit and banking system remains under the control of the individuals who are now in possession of it.

As I remarked in an address two days ago, the first point to realise clearly in assessing the practical situation is that the problems connected with the financial system do not arise out of the difficulties of financiers. There is only one uniformly prosperous business in the world to-day, and that is "banking" with its twin sister "insurance." You cannot realise too clearly that the financier's only anxiety is that the existing state of affairs should be permanent, and he is in a position to see that what are called "political appointments" are made with this objective in view, and I believe this to be just as true of the Labour Party as it is of the Conservative Party, and rather more true of the Liberal Party than either.

If you see these matters in the way that I see them, and I have no doubt that many of you do, you will realise the immense area and importance of the interests involved, you will also realise that taking the wide and the long view the approach of a very troublesome period which is as clearly indicated as any signs could possibly indicate anything, ought to be, and for my part is, an indication to be welcomed that the forces of mankind are upon the march, that the seed which we have sown to the best of our ability during the last few years and which may have appeared to be lying fallow, is now beginning to sprout, and that although the forces of reaction undoubtedly will not retreat and be finally defeated without striking many a shrewd blow, in the words of the inspired prophet "The time of our redemption draweth nigh."

Cradle to Matriculation.

A CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EXAMINATION PROBLEM.

By Arthur B. Allen, A.C.P.

I.

Authority recently acknowledged that the examination of scholars has been allowed to reach the limit of absurdity. Every teacher has known this as commonplace these last ten years: but better to have the issue raised ten years late than not at all. Whatever may happen to alter the official attitude concerning the examination system, a well-reasoned analysis of this system has yet to be made, and it is the purpose of the present article to attempt such an analysis.

We will assume a child born into this world for the express purpose of being educated and trained for the London Matriculation Examination. We will assume that the educationalist can handle the child from the early age of three until he can take the youth of seventeen into the examination room, and leave him there confident of success. These two premises must be given ungrudgingly to the writer to allow of his argument taking form and reaching its climax. Given this let us proceed.

We will take as our current simile that of a race. To this race we shall refer throughout this argument, and at each stage indicated, we shall mean both physical as well as mental development of speed towards the indicated goal—that of the gaining of the London Matriculation Certificate.

Mentally and physically between the age of three and that of seven the child toddles along. And his development at this point is along a three-fold channel, a channel that contains development of the Body, of the Mind, and of the Spirit. It is here that we as educationalists go astray. We tend to develop one at the expense of the remaining two, or two at the expense of the third. We are inclined to produce brain at the expense of brawn, or brawn without the corresponding development in mind, and both without reference to the spirit of the child which may be repressed and permanently damaged because it has been considered someone else's task. Therefore, we shall show a three-fold development in each lap of our race, and show how imperative this educational attack upon the child must be.

Physically between these years of three and seven the child is gaining a control of his body, he becomes interested in forms of handicraft, which, fully exploited, will produce a cunning hand; he gathers stones and cards, and any sort of nick-nacks, and hides them. This hiding of the treasures of his heart is an essential and vital part of his development. He is having a secret of his own for the first time. He invented the secret and guards it well. He becomes momentarily independent, and this is a great step forward.

Mentally he becomes interested in myths and legends; and the story of the evolution of the earth may be presented at this stage for the first time. He likes dressing up and playing make-believe; his imagination becomes his life, and his dream-world a world of stark reality. He will attempt to copy new words he has heard, and when he has only heard them imperfectly he will produce some of those choice remarks that make the life of the educationalist a real delight. One recalls to mind the remark of a little girl who was present when her father and his friends were drinking whisky. She had been watching them for several minutes when she startled the gathering by asking, "Daddy, is that illegitimate whisky?" Since she was aged five she may be excused the confusion of "illegitimate" with "illicit"!

At this age-period the child begins to develop a religio-philosophic complex, which for the sake of convenience we shall call the Spirit. Here we find the child giving a living personality to all things. He will speak of Mr. Tree, Mr. Stone, Mr. Water, and Mr. Grass. He will endow his favourite toys with the breath of life, and treat them as equals, unless he is angry with them, and then they are degraded to inferior rank. He delights in magical-wonder stories, with hero-gods, and revels in the seeming omnipotence of the medicine-man and the witch-doctor. He gains a taste of the spiritual and finds it to his palate; and since it is along this spiritual development that his character is moulded it behoves the educationalist rather to emphasise than to ignore.

He is now eight, and a new lord of creation. It is time to introduce him to barter, the ideas involved being practically demonstrated by an exchange of handicrafts between people around him, or between other centres of training. He may now be taught the various systems of counting, which include the primitive quipu, for in the quipu lies the fundamental origin of all arithmetic. From this he may be directed to a system of currency with shells, pebbles, or beads as money, and thereby he gains an elementary knowledge of economics, and banking. Passing from the physical development to the mental broadening, we find the child is occupying his spare time with the invention of primitive weapons, and gourds. He builds himself hedge-tents; and wherever possible he will acquire a tent, a "wigwam" of his own. He may be encouraged with great educational motive in this activity, for herein lie the roots of civics. Spiritually we find him interested in totemism, and he should be allowed to carve his own totem pole, and that of his "gang" or school. The "gang" activity must be used within the confines of our own team system if the team system is to be more than a mere psychological farce, and a pretence at something that cannot exist.

It is natural for most children to work and think and play in groups when they have reached the age of eight or nine, and this should be encouraged. It will be wise, however, if the formal teams are not organised until at least a year later, for the formal team demands a discipline that the child is not only unwilling to give, but is physically unable to give. Forceful inclusion within a team at too early an age produces a repression, and results in the very inferiority complex that we as educationalists wish to wipe out of civilisation. By the age of nine the class containing these men-in-embryo should be a collection of gangs, all being directed into educational activities. Let the "gang" rewards be of such a nature that the various systems of currencies may be used, and arithmetical calculations be involved; let the handicraft activities be utilised for the illustration of the academic side and the play-activity side; and let the totemistic ideas be freely discussed and exploited by whichever of the leaders or the laity that desire.

When the age of nine has been passed our runner gains in speed as he gains in economic, historic, and religio-philosophic efficiency. He may now be made familiar with the exchange of I.O.U.'s in his physical development: mentally he begins to develop a decided technique in campcraft and outdoor tribal life and activity. He will seek knowledge concerning the customs of the races upon this planet, and will copy these in creative play. It is the imagination of the child reconstructing the past history of mankind, and revelling in the sport. He will dance the corrobboree, and throw the javelin and wrestle and swim. He will dress up as the witch-doctor and demand the homage due to his office. He will go away and, for a time, become the wandering holy man or hermit. All child's play is creative play; and creative play is education from A to Z. A fact that we have yet to realise in its full significance.

(To be concluded.)

Drama.

The Berg: His Majesty's.

An ocean liner is so attractive a setting for drama that the greater popularity of country-house parties and hotels is, like popularity in general, inexplicable. A ship is a walled-in civilisation, differing from Great Britain mainly in that it is well governed. The "Titanic" disaster contains latent the essence of epic drama, as the essence of a great war play is latent in the sinking of the "Lusitania." Mr. Ernest Raymond, author of "The Berg," which is based on the loss of the "Titanic," has deliberately chosen not to write an epic, for which reason it would have been preferable had he written a war-play. The war offers scope for everybody, whereas the staking of a claim to the "Titanic" must either challenge or discourage other writers. Mr. Raymond, whose attitude appears to be expressed in the character of John Rool, represents the passengers of the sinking ship as men and women who have been frittering away their lives in the usual ways suddenly forced to decide how to live their last two hours. John Rool, whose mission has been the slaughter of romanticism, gains, through personal respect, the application of commonsense rather than chivalry in deciding who shall be saved. Finally the first-class and steerage for whom there were no boats, and whose first impulse was to drink before drowning, wait for the end quietly after an extempore sermon from the padre, who, before, had been conscious stricken about neglecting his job.

After the sermon John Rool added that a further reason for dying cleanly was that the sacrifices they had made and the death they were dying would perhaps gain them a better peace in the memories of their friends than they deserved. The fundamental criticism of the play is that the author has rendered them niggardly justice. While the play is very rarely dull, it never rises to the thrill of moral heroism or the pathos of death at short notice. Its discussions were more interesting than the situations. Had Mr. Raymond been more anti-romantic still, and portrayed the slough of cowardice and despond heartbreakingly, forcing the audience to come aboard and despair with the lost, I would have thanked him. That he ought to have done is implicit in the earlier acts. Each frivolous passenger had shown anxiety to sacrifice himself to love in terms of common sense. All women have gone but the old wife of crippled John Rool, who has, firmly but with no outcry, stayed behind with her husband. The coward has seen the sense of dying sociably. The mistress-hunting middle-aged husband has remembered only his wife and daughter. Surely after that the padre, rising above his vocational failure, should shine as the image of God and the brother of Christ; for once he should be inspired, and if God grant not His creature the gift of tongues, he should draw on the charity of Saint Paul in good company with the compilers of the burial service. But the author gave the padre the sort of speech that might be delivered by a first-year Christian Evidence lecturer compromising in anticipation of hecklers; with all the extempore barnacles such as, "What I mean to say is," left in. It was unfortunate that the author reserved all the best lines for John Rool. The one quoted about immortality in remembrance could have been spoken by the padre with no more heresy than he had already committed.

If the author's aim was to picture the end so unromantically as to refuse to heighten emotion for art's sake, it was made doubly sure of attainment by the even restraint of the presentation. Allowance has to be made here for the fact that the production had been transferred from a very small to a very big theatre. The result compares with the removal of the chapel harmonium into the cathedral. It is not the failure to erect a false stage and tilt the deck, or to have the players *knee-deep in real* sea-water specially brought from the North *Atlantic*, that is in question. So intimate a presentation in so large a theatre could hardly reach the imagination. For much of the first act some of the actors could not possibly have been heard throughout the theatre. Godfrey Tearle's John Rool was an excellent interpretation of the crippled critic of romance, appropriate to any theatre. Several actors gave good performances in the intimate style, but George Relph did not overcome the handicap of bondage to pedestrian lines as much as he might have done. The characters of Clara Tate-Hughes and her daughter were thankless jobs. They should be cut out or re-written.

The Pleasure Garden: Everyman.

Mrs. Beatrice Mayor's "The Pleasure Garden" was presented by the Stage Society a few years ago. By reviving it the Everyman enhances its established reputation for intelligent adventurousness. In sustained dramatic interest and technique "The Pleasure Garden" is one of the most original works of woman. It has a broad human theme; although its characters are a burlesque of mankind in its worst moods, and therefore offensive to Nature, they radiate direct observation and serious contemplation. The play attracts by its economy of phrase and power to suggest at every moment more than is said or to be seen. Although an account of the action will appear episodic, the movement is as smooth as good dove-tailing. The whole cast of twenty-two, although some of them appear only for a minute or two, have material on which to occupy their capacity. Stage-setting, production, and cast, are excellent. The work of Alfred Clark, Stanley Howlett, Betty Potter, Tom Heslewood, Ellen Pollock, Una O'Connor, Arthur Grenville, to select a few "in order of appearance," proves that London has actors fit to do anything worth doing without calling on the household names.

A middle-aged man sits smoking on a seat in the park. Near by a younger woman sews. She does not speak, but the man offers a friendly word and a sympathetic ear to all the strangers who stop to rest in the shade. On the same seat a student is immersed in the natural history of crabs. A young girl enquires in distress whether anyone has seen a young man. A woman past youth but not middle-aged stares into vacancy. She has just lost the seventeenth job as companion in twenty-one years. A married couple celebrating the anniversary of their wedding in the park nag and quarrel. In conversation the man with the pipe suggests to the student an exchange of studies for an hour. The man will read about crabs while the boy observes the curious habits of human beings.

Mankind proves an unedifying subject. The first bright specimen is a grand dame with whims, a servile maid, and a whistle. In his travels the boy observes that the clergyman's wife envies her old school-chum, now a prostitute, because the latter has slept with the music-teacher who was their grand passion. The prostitute is in despond because the only boy she ever cared for shakes her off to marry into his own class. The poet, creating songs of joy, is more like a bat, blind to all nature, and when he does hear a bird, like almost all the other characters, he envies it. The unemployed actor drinks to drown and boast of imaginary sorrows. The young couple quarrel, make-up, and quarrel. The unemployed companion goes mad. Two women of the charwoman class converse, in their own idiom, of worms and graves and epitaphs, asylums and lunacy. The mad girl's hesitation about suicide on the edge of the lake causes a couple of factory girls to split their sides at her comic aspect. Any rare decent action proves later to have been ego-centric, as when the clergyman's

wife returns to the prostitute she has just shunned because of her still live desire for the music-master. When the student, bewildered and perplexed, returns to the man with the pipe, he learns that two people are happy. The man is under medical sentence of death within the year, and he has ceased to participate in life. He has learned the lesson of Buddha; the woman is sewing baby clothes. Going out of life or bringing someone in, the play implies, bring any solace or joy, and it is a fair inference that nobody would bring another into life if she had observed it. Wherever two or three are gathered together in the name of love, is the play's message, the devil is among them. When Jurgen came out of Merlin's cave after being shown the heart of the world, he cried, "I will not believe it." Because history is landmarked with despots and criminals, most people are ashamed to confess their best deeds, fearing that these would be regarded as weakness.

Whether Christopher Sly should remain on the stage while the Shrew is tamed is an open question. Mrs. Mayor no doubt regards the student's presence throughout as indispensable, to make sure of identifying the audience with him. But his method of studying mankind, long before the hour was up, would have gained him a more wholesome lesson than he learned by getting his posterior soundly kicked. He would have been able to study in a hospital bed. That student is the person in fear of whom the regulation was designed that sticks and umbrellas should be left with the attendant. He would have jabbed the breathing models at Tussaud's. Had he wanted to understand folk because he loved them or wished them well, we could have wished him well. The observation of habits as he practised it would be sadistic and vulgar, though it were done by angels.

PAUL BANKS.

Music.

Rome. Accademia di S. Cecilia. March 8.

A song recital by a singer of considerable local repute—Donna Ortensia di Mignano—a repute for which justification was as difficult to discover as it is in the case of the Frenchwoman, Croiza, of whom she is practically an Italian counterpart. To a thoroughly faulty singing technique exhibiting a dozen common faults in a glowing manner, uneven, whoopy, windy tones, and the usual wobble, and the prevalent inability to sustain a line, this lady adds also a dulness, a monotonous flatness of manner in the presenting of her songs, a lack of character in the conceptions, and a rhythmic uncertainty, which combined to make up a performance of unrelieved depression. There is no point in analysing further the inevitable maltreatment of a Handel aria, a group of Lieder in very indifferent German, including the lovely *Traum durch die Dämmerung* of Strauss, consequent upon the inherent and essential failings of the singer, of which, of course, such things offered the fullest exemplification. One is still wondering how four settings of *rondeaux* of Charles d'Orleans, which, by the way, I did not stop to hear, managed to turn themselves into *Four popular Songs of Orleans*.

Tristan. Teatro Reale dell' Opera. March 9.

Although I have before suffered the pain only the sensitive of ear can suffer in hearing *Tristan* Italianised as *Tristanno e Isolta*, yet I could not resist the desire to hear this miraculous score played by a great orchestra, and to be convinced once more that it is a luminous glowing fabric of incomparable sound, and not a mess—as we in England so often hear it. But although I *did* realise the paramount glory of this work again, it was under a conductor, Marinuzzi, who has no root of the Wagnerian phrase in him, and who cannot express with any pregnance or conviction the heart of the Wagnerian thought. There was only superficial brilliance and polish—no depth nor penetration at all.

And the singers were, with a couple or so exceptions, thoroughly bad—the exceptions being the *King Mark* and the *Brangäne*. But be the singers never so good, no singing could cope with the ruination of the phrasing, sense accentuation, and colour involved in translation into a language so remote as Italian. It was the most shattering argument against "Opera in the Vernacular," i.e., the vernacular of the place, as distinct from the vernacular of the Opera itself, that could be imagined. The settings by Nicholas Benois, son of the celebrated Alexandre Benois, were marvels of imaginative beauty, saturated with the spirit of the drama. No better, unless by the sublime Appia himself, could be wished for.

Lucia. March 15.

After five visits to Rome's Opera House one at last heard singing—singing of such transcendent quality that it went far to compensate one for earlier sufferings. But it came from one member of the cast only, from *Lucia* herself, in the person of Toti dal Monte, who is not unknown in London. My readers will remember that I have never lost opportunity of paying homage to this rare and exquisite artist; but, even knowing her quality as well as I do, I was left breathless by the miracles of singing she achieved. Her voice, always beautiful, has now attained such a pitch of development that it must rank as one of the very greatest of the great fioritura sopranos and incomparably the greatest of any living soprano leggiero. The quality, at once of incredible brilliance and luminosity, has a warmth, a roundness and a fullness that must be heard to be believed. The evenness and purity are miraculous: not a false tone nor a harsh quality did she utter the whole evening; and never did she allow herself to be lured into forcing in order to dominate the, as usual, often too strepitous, orchestra—Marinuzzi being a decidedly inconsiderate conductor where his singers are concerned. Her *fioritura* technique is of fabulous brilliance and accomplishment, her *cantilena* of flawless beauty, and her power of colouring her tones magical. The tremendous "Mad Scene" was not only the highest imaginable apex of pure and beautiful singing, but it was a wonderful piece of interpretative art as well. Sung like this, one realises the beauty and expressiveness of Donizetti's music. But it is safe to say that only Signora dal Monte can sing Donizetti now that Battistini is gone. I need hardly say that she is *not* on the list of singers for the coming season at Covent Garden, a state of affairs as incredible as the failure to engage Battistini during recent years, to anyone not familiar with the strange ways of the Covent Garden authorities. This being so, I exhort all who have any feeling left for superlatively great art in singing to buy Signora dal Monte's latest records (H.M.V.). None of dal Monte's colleagues approached her as singers, the old tutor (Giacomo Vaghi) was the best. The tenor, de Muro lo Manto (Edgardo) has decided possibilities, if he would study carefully his wife's incomparable art: he is dal Monte's husband.

KAIKHOSRU SORABJI.

"America beaten in shipping race. Britain still rules the waves: Merchantmen epic. Battered fleet regains its supremacy."—Headlines in the *Sunday Express*, March 24. British tonnage is up from 16½ to 20 million tons since 1919; American is up from 11 to 12 millions.

King Fuad I., G.C.B., celebrates his sixty-first birthday on March 26. "After receiving instruction under an English tutor . . etc." "A *patron* of English drama, and a subscriber to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. Intends to come to *Cowes Regatta* this year. (*Sunday Referee*, March 24.) An Egyptian monarch and a British mason.

The Screen Play.

"The Lost Patrol."

Mr. Walter Summers, in whom England has a film director of real greatness, has, in "The Lost Patrol" (Marble Arch Pavilion), made the best English film yet shown. He has also made a film that is great when judged by the most exacting foreign standards. Here are atmosphere and stark reality; an etching of war as it is, and not as it might be if conducted to titillate the palates of Coney Island. This deeply moving and real story of ten men lost in the Mesopotamian Desert until none is left alive is a masterpiece of the screen. Each of the characters stands out as an individual, without any straining after contrast, and it is notable that save for Cyril McLaglen none of them is well known, although the fidelity and distinction with which every part is played successfully challenge the impersonations of most British film stars. There is not a false or jarring note in this admirable production, which possesses the incidental virtues of economy in titles (one can hear the characters speak) and excellent photography. Go and see it.

De Millk and Water.

This much-boomed film (Piccadilly Theatre) is an incredibly crude production, which justifies all the harshest things ever said about Hollywood, and plunges the screen play back to the low level at which it was painfully beginning to emerge fifteen years ago. Two years of research are said to have been spent on its making, but none of the time would have appeared to have been devoted to a study of the Book of Genesis, judging by the liberties which Michael Curtiz, the director, has taken with the Scriptures. These include such unpublished episodes as the blinding on religious grounds of Japhet, who subsequently finds his way, unaided, and carrying his best girl, back to the Ark just in time for the launching, and the reception by Noah of a sign from Heaven in the form of a burning bush, of which I had always imagined Moses to possess the original performing rights. Noah, by the way, is made to appear an intensely wearying old bore with Marcelled hair and beard, whom one would gladly have seen drowned. Most of the film deals with the late war, on the basis of a completely false analogy, and although one realises that the building of the Ark, and the Flood would not in themselves have padded the film out to regulation length, an intelligent and artistic director could have linked the Biblical episodes with some more suitable theme. Incidentally, the war scenes are in the worst vein of American treacliness, including such a display of affection between two soldiers as to make me wonder whether our Film Censors have ever heard of homosexuality.

The talking sequences are ridiculous. Dolores Costello, who again reveals her almost complete lack of suitability for the screen, lithps with a strong American accent, although supposed to be a German who is assured that she speaks "poifect" English, to the derision of English audiences. A Russian Intelligence officer is made to conduct all his conversation with an American accent that could be cut and handed round on a plate, and by some obscure process of intuition, a French innkeeper's daughter understands American slang in 1914. Add that the story, such as it is, stretches coincidence until it snaps with a loud noise.

The critic is obliged to say in justice that the flood scenes and the handling of the crowds are so masterly as to be beyond praise, and give evidence of the most admirable staff work. But these high spots are swamped by the general crudity of a production which can best be described as De Millk and Water.

DAVID OCKHAM.

A Child's Cosmogony.

In an attempt to get a glimpse of things as they appear to a child, Prof. Piaget* has drawn up a questionnaire covering such subjects as the nature of thought, the origin of the sun and moon, and meteorology. Large numbers of children, aged from five to eleven, are subjected to this test, and general conclusions are drawn from their answers.

Prof. Piaget is well aware of the arduous and clumsy nature of his technique, and of its many sources of instrumental error, but by the exercise of due caution he obtains results which are convincing and interesting.

Certain general trends are thus brought to light in the child-mind. These are implicit or unconscious in whole or part, and, indeed, only emerge into clear consciousness when they are about to be abandoned, and, as it were, in a last desperate struggle for life.

It would seem that the child implicitly takes his awareness as his point of reference, and regards all things, including the contents of his consciousness, as external to this point, and therefore on our level of reality. Thus he makes no distinction between the self of which he is aware, and the not-self of which he is aware. He achieves a kind of Pantheistic fusion with the universe, superficially very similar to the atonement of the mystic, though actually at the opposite pole of consciousness. To the mystic, mind and matter are one in their unreality, as shadows of Transcendent Reality, but to the child they are one in reality and are reality itself. The mystic is an idealist, but the child a realist and a magician.

Thus, with regard to thought, the child, like a true physiologist, confuses it with speech, which largely consists of names as far as he is concerned. Since he does not clearly separate his thoughts about things from the things themselves, he concludes that the name of an object is either inherent in it or that it has some close material association with its object. Prof. Piaget calls this Nominal Realism. It is only by a gradual process that the child learns to withdraw the name from the object into himself.

The same tendency manifests itself in other ways. Seeing no boundary line between the self and the not-self, the child naturally endows all objects with some sort of life, and may thus be called an animist. The younger children examined by Prof. Piaget all thought that the sun and moon and other objects were alive and knew their names. As growth continues, the child comes to deny life, first to objects which do not move, and later to all those which do not move of their own will.

But alongside this animism is the child's growing conception of his own power over his thoughts, and therefore over things. He thus becomes a magician. Magic and animism, indeed, are complementary, according to whether the child's stress falls on not-self or self. Thus the children examined were almost unanimous in attributing the illusory motions of sun and moon to their own movements on earth. Some said simply, "We make them move," while others had the idea that the luminaries followed them about like servants or from interest in their doings.

Yet the child knows that he did not make the sun and moon, and for an explanation of their origin he falls back on artificialism. He first attributes them to the most powerful beings in his universe, and thinks his parents made them, but as he grows disillusioned, he attributes their construction first to "men" in general, and later to God. There is no clash in his mind between artificialism and animism, for he also believes his parents capable of "making" living babies. Artificialism also excludes the idea of physical determinism, and replaces it by moral law. People, or "God," made the sun and moon, the clouds and rivers, etc., for a purpose, and these objects are quite aware of the duties they are expected to perform. Thus, in answer to the question, "Why does the sun shine?" nearly all the children say, "To warm us."

It is from this generalised pantheism that the child emerges as he grows, and his growth is thus a process of dissociation of self from the world, a continuous birth from the womb of that universal psyche of which even Jung's "Racial Psyche" is only one aspect. Hence, perhaps, the birth-symbolism of dreams, which the Freudians, Nicodemus-like, have insisted on taking literally.

As is well known, Sir James Frazer found similar trends in the mentality of primitive races, and describes in *The Golden Bough* the growth of the mythopoeic faculty from animism, through magic and religion, to the scientfic attitude.

A parallel line of thought may be traced in the insane, especially in that heterogeneous group loosely labelled the

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* "The Child's Conception of the World." By Jean Piaget. (Kegan Paul. 12s. 6d. net.)

pururiodal states. A few extracts from my case notes on patients at present under my care may therefore be of interest.

(I.) S. S. is an example of nominal realism. She refers to the nurses of the Institution as the "limited influences," and to the doctors as the "unlimited influences." If she were to mention their names she would thereby "come under the writing-scheme" which would place here more than ever in their power. She adds that "names are great influences," and that "it is through the forcing of names that evil comes."

(II.) S. M. is a magician, the dire results of whose magic have overwhelmed her with remorse. She is very suicidal, and wants to die "because she has condemned the world" by stuffing a shawl up the chimney.

(III.) F. B. is a simple type of animist. She is a good worker, and spends her time polishing furniture, all the while scolding it and loading it with abuse.

(IV.) L. A. complains of being breathed upon by "afterbirths," which cause her to give birth to "spirit-children." The afterbirth, she conceives, is a person's "spirit-body," and having none of her own, she is peculiarly defenceless, her mother having hid her afterbirth somewhere when she was born.

This case is particularly interesting, not only because of its close parallel with what Frazer has told us of primitive ideas about the afterbirth, but because it marks the junction between child-animism and child-artificialism. The linking idea, as we have seen, is the birth of babies. That artificialism is present in the patient's mind is shown by her belief that the "afterbirth" are men who impregnate her by waving their hands over her.

But what seems to elude both Piaget and Frazer is that the more puerile and erroneous intellectually the thought of the child or the primitive, the more direct it tends to be. Completely unable to construct or explain a coherent cosmological system, they are yet in contact with all the currents of earth and all the winds of heaven. Hence the profound intuitions which jostle the most childish and barbaric superstitions in the Sacred Books of the Ancients, and hence, too, the wisdom of babes and sucklings.

Realising this fact, certain artists have tried to exploit it by deliberately cultivating a childish attitude to reality. Foremost among these are Proust and Blake. In Proust it is something of a pose, a means of description chosen for its quaintness and beauty. Yet he takes it half-seriously. Thus, while describing his awakening from sleep, and the way in which his bedroom furniture would move about and transform itself to effect the change from his dreams to his waking consciousness, he suddenly says "perhaps the immobility of things is forced upon them by our conviction that they are themselves and not anything else, and by the immobility of our conceptions of them" (*Overture, Du Côté de Chez Swann*. Translation by C. K. Scott Moncrieff).

Blake, on the other hand, in his impetuous way, plunges headlong into child-cosmogony, so that nearly all Prof. Piaget's mechanicisms are to be found in him unchanged. For instance, his biographer, Gilchrist, tells that once, upon being shown a book on astronomy dealing with the magnitude of interstellar space, Blake cried out passionately, "It is false. Yesterday I raised my stick and touched the sky." And in his *Milton* we read:—

> The sky is an Immortal Tent, built by the Sons of Los,
> And every Space that a man views around his dwelling-place,
> Standing on his own roof, or in his garden, on a mount
> Of twenty-five cubits in height, such space is his universe,
> And on its verge the sun rises and sets. The clouds bow
> To meet the flat earth and the Sea.
> As to that false appearance, which appears to the reasoner
> As of a Globe rolling through voidness, it is a delusion of Ulro.

But these are only exaggerations of the feelings of all men. In growing up we gain knowledge often only to lose truth. Yet we keep a memory of it in our hearts, and therefore, like Barrie, we are always ready with a kiss for Cinderella.

NEIL MONTGOMERY.

"The reporters tell the truth when they say they send no constructive news because the editors refuse to print it. American editors demand that Mexican news meat must be excitingly gory. If it doesn't drip blood and sensation they don't want it and they won't have it. Editors are not interested and insist that their readers are not interested in a Mexico that is thriving, peaceful, productive. . . . Show some of these editors a fighting Mexico, with blood on the landscape, presaging a war of intervention . . . and they will whoop and cheer."—George Seldes in *The Truth Behind the News*, 1918-1928.

Colour and Life.

The Little Art Rooms.

Mr. Clarke Hutton is a young man who combines modesty with a certain versatile genius. We think from this exhibition of his that we shall hear more of him. His modesty is exemplified in the extremely small prices he puts upon his work, his versatility in the way in which he catches the manner of a dozen artists in whose styles he is experimenting. The "Riva, Venice" (8) might be a William Wolcott. "The Trapeze" (13), a lithograph—and a very excellent piece of work it is—recalls Laura Knight slightly reduced in *embonpoint*. Of the other lithographs, "Vaudeville" (17), might be a Lautrec. "The Picnic" (23), a Spenser Pryse, "Building" (25), a Pennell or even a Nevinson, while the "Fair People" (28) is amazingly Forainesque. At two guineas these clever lithographs should be worth anyone's money.

The Leicester Galleries.

These walls are always attractive, and the current show of "Drawings by Old and Modern Masters" is worth close attention, as much by reason of their shrewd and effective contrasts, as by the quality of the work exhibited. The Henry Lamb show misses great distinction, because nobody could be satisfied with such ordinary portraiture as his. At the same time, his *choses vues* are happy and alive, whether they consist of studies of the horny handed drinking at bars in Canning Town, or a summer crowd of cyclists waiting at a level crossing, or some misty countryside viewed from a quiet slope. Incidentally, Mr. Lamb must not allow this haze idea to dominate his work, for he is above such tricks. Also, it might be worth while for him to reflect that single portraits need atmosphere just as much as groups portrayed on some chance happy occasion.

L. S.

Reviews.

The Memoirs of Raymond Poincaré, Vol. III. (August, 1914—December, 1914.) Translated and adapted by Sir George Arthur. (Heinemann. 21s.)

This third and last of the Poincaré memoirs is not an adaptation, but a straight translation of the fifth book of the Lorrainer's recollections. The other two English volumes compressed and adapted Poincaré's first four books. Whether this process was what made them so dull I cannot tell. However, they are published and done with, and it is something to be thankful for that the new book, though it begins along just as lumpy and rut-ridden a way, proceeds towards more open fields of genuine interest. Indeed, it teaches us things about Poincaré we did not know, and which we rather like. The picture of him as the bully of Europe is one which Germans like to draw for us, and his policy on the Ruhr did much to provide a suitable background for the various expressions which that portrait has received. But Poincaré does not show up as the bully in these first days when the Germans are hammering their way through Belgium. Of course, it might be said that such are not the times when the bully does show himself. But neither does Poincaré show up as a coward, or as one anxious to relieve his own fears of the terror advancing on him by taking it out of the first weaker adversary in the neighbourhood. It is amazing to learn how his own General Headquarters starved him of informtaion, keeping the most elementary knowledge of the facts from him, and so completely that if he had lost his head it would have been quite understandable. Add to this the annoyance from the old Tiger, whose services, like those of several other Frenchmen, Poincaré was anxious to secure. It was the Tiger who dragged the first discussion into the realm of cheap insult and undignified backchat—and Poincaré hardly reproaches him for it, but just mentions it *en passant*. Considering what his difficulties were, and how he realised that if France went under. his would be the first head to fall, we must reserve a good share of admiration for the courage and dignity and good sense of this unattractive-looking country bourgeois. Actually, it was none of his doing that the French began the war with two such ghastly mistakes that the wonder was they won the Marne at all. Lorrainer, though he was, Poincaré had nothing to do with encouraging the mad advance into the lost provinces, or the equally wild adventures, full of sound and fury, which plunged brigades and divisions into the trap the Germans had laid for them so neatly in the Ardennes. It was the men and material lost in these two outbreaks of tragic nonsense which allowed the Germans to advance almost to the gates of Paris. Yet Poincaré has no reproaches, either for Joffre or his subordinates, nor does he blame the subsequent

cowardice which left Lille unprotected, when a few battalions might have saved it. In fact, these undoctored pages give us a very attractive picture of an unattractive personality, and make it rather difficult to understand much of Poincaré's revengeful Chauvinism when France was safe and victorious.

L. S.

Through Hungarian Eyes. By Julia Eva Vajkai. (Weardale Press. 1s.)

It is always instructive to get a candid criticism of our institutions as they appear to a foreigner. Madame Vajkai, as administrator of the "Save the Children" Fund in Hungary, is well equipped both in experience and in intelligence to give such criticism of similar activities in this country. The account of her impressions of work being done amongst young people in day schools and night schools, through Labour Exchanges and After-Care Associations, and amongst delinquents, is full of pithy sense and sound criticisms. But although she finds the English system in some respects superior to the Hungarian one, she concludes that it is indigenous to our soil and incapable of transplantation to countries with newer and less complex traditions. While reading the book I was haunted by a spectral vision of Mme. Vajkai and her co-workers in both countries toiling gallantly but fruitlessly round the economic treadmill. In the preface the Rev. J. C. Pringle is full of enthusiasm for the "simplicity" and lack of material resources with which Hungarian social workers have to contend. One expects this sort of thing from his cloth, but Mme. Vajkai does not share his delusion. She knows only too well how many of her aims are frustrated by lack of money, but apparently accepts this as inevitable. She always works with a view to fitting the child to his economic environment. Thus, though envious of superior economic facilities in Engand, she says:

> "I would not choose better furniture than we have, nor better food or clothing, because I believe it is dangerous to give the children in school better commodities than they will be given in their future life."

What sound commonsense this is, and what appalling nonsense! No wonder Mme. Vajkai is surprised at the superior physique of the London slum child as compared to that of his Hungarian brother. Mme. Vajkai attributes the difference, probably rightly, though not without qualms, to the existence of the "dole" in England. Yet even so we find her wondering whether it is really necessary for the welfare of the world that so many little Londoners should be born, and again whether the raising of the legal age of employment would not discourage parents from the bad habits of procreation. At the same time, by a curious process of logic, beyond the grasp of a mere male, she has a good word for family allowance "on a large scale." These are mere asides to her main theme, and it is perhaps unfair to demand logical cohesion in them, but it is very strange and rather disheartening to find so keen and generous an intelligence working so rigidly within artificial bounds. The publishers very kindly supply an already written review along with the book.

NOEL MONTGOMERY.

Local Geography. By C. G. Beasley, B.A., F.R.G.S. (Murby. 1s.)

Block Models Illustrating Geological Structures. Designed by Frank Smithson, Ph.D., F.G.S. (Murby. 1s. 6d.)

The Social Credit Theorem usually develops in its supporters a strong "Regional Patriotism," whose geographical basis is a study under all its aspects of the district they live in. For such work the first of these small pamphlets will be found very helpful. It gives valuable hints on the making of a survey of any area from a square mile to a county or province. Its physical geography; the rocks, soils, climate, plants, and animals are first studied. Then its "human geography"; its industries, communications, trade, and type of inhabitants. In the hands of a skilful teacher, it could easily be made the approach to Social Credit economics. This Regional Survey work, whose original inspirator was Professor Patrick Geddes, is a favourable activity among woodcraft groups, to whom Mr. Beasley's practical hints and lists of sources of information should be of great value. Mr. Smithson's block models are a dozen "nets" which, when mounted on card, illustrate different types of folding and faulting in the strata, with the displacement they produce of the surface outcrops of the beds. They should be helpful in the study of physical geography, the basis of the regional survey.

I. O. E.

The British in Tropical Africa. By Ifor Evans, M.A. (Cambridge University Press. 12s. 6d.)

The importance of our four West African colonies is only now beginning to be appreciated by our Whitehall dunderheads. The slightly less pig-headed commercial magnates, who have been hanging around after new fortunes ever since they discovered that the slave trade was likely to look immoral, have by now sired great-grandsons, with sense enough to back up those adventurous souls, and the solid, sweating arms and brains of the Guinea lands. Suddenly comes a Goldie Taubman, combining the money sense of Barney Barnato with the he-mannish local efficiency of Sanders of the River, and things begin moving, with the result that the trade of the four colonies to-day runs close upon seventy millions a year, and the volume of inter-Empire business with Canada is likely to rival our own very soon, and is already arousing the attention of the United States. As for the South and East, the story of Rhodes has been told before, while perhaps the kind favour of Lord Delamere will suffer the truth about Kenya to emerge from her soon. Meanwhile, this good-natured text-book, typical in its unpretentious efficiency of the University which produced it, deserves a space on the shelves of every merchant and historian. Mr. Evans has not made his introduction as stimulating as he might. That is where we miss the Oxford touch. But, as he proceeds, he interests us more, and if only he had a little more confidence, his work would have benefited by an additional brightness which it lacks. Also, it would not have been illustrated by such bad maps, and so few. It is not inaccuracy of which we complain, but of the inability to bring a sketch-map into relation with the average man's geography, and to make him see strange places with understanding. A more romantic writer would have avoided this fault. At any rate, within the compass of 400 pages, we get a survey of modern Africa as a world market, prosperous and potentially inexhaustible.

L. S.

Through a Yellow Glass. By Oswell Blakeston. (Pool, 24, Devonshire Street, W.C.1. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Oswell Blakeston, whose contributions to *Close Up* are among the features of that provocative monthly, has made a notable addition to the literature of the screen. He has explained the technique of the studio and of film photography with most admirable conciseness and not a little sly humour. This book so fills a real want, that of teaching the intelligent public just how a screen play is made, that I hope it may eventually be re-issued at a price more within the reach of film-goers of moderate means.

DAVID OCKHAM.

The Minutes. By A. R. Williams. (Fowler Wright. 7s. 6d.)

Naive at times to the point of crudity, this collection of short stories could have waited until the author had mastered his craft, or at lease learnt it better. In justice, we must praise the story called "The Ripples," up to where it ends without giving us the benefit of what happens at the most dramatic point. This is the kind of fault which is made by the amateur, or by the writer who has not yet learnt, by harsh experience, that editors want certain value for their money, and will not pay until goods are delivered.

L. S.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

THE ECONOMIC PARTY.

Sir,—The declared policy of the Economic Party, upon which my subscription, for one, was collected, did not include the supporting of the Kibbo Kift Kindred: let that be clear once and for all. But, for some reason that I am still unable to discover, the advertisement to which I referred contained the words:

> "Members of the Economic Party are those in sympathy with the Kindred of the Kibbo Kift who, etc."

Why, in the name of sanity, need the Kibbo Kift have been mentioned? The inclusion of the name meant nothing, could do no good, and may do immense harm.

There is really no necessity for a long psychological discussion. The facts speak for themselves. After ten long years the membership of the Kibbo Kift is still tiny; and no matter what it is that deters English people from joining the Kibbo Kift, that thing will likewise deter them from joining the Economic Party if the two movements become mixed up in their minds by the inclusion of the name "Kibbo Kift" in Economic Party literature.

They may even go so far as to read the literature of the movement with which the Party that they are asked to join is apparently mixed up—and there they will find not only Social Credit, but a hundred and one excellent things, with some of which they may not agree, and then they will be more muddled than ever.

What we all want for the Economic Party is membership, mass recruiting, weight of numbers—and a single, naked issue; and the meaningless, useless "Kibbo Kift" label is an absolute bar to both these things.

ROLAND BERRILL.

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Supporters of the Social Credit Movement contend that under present conditions the purchasing power in the hands of the community is chronically insufficient to buy the whole product of industry. This is because the money required to finance capital production, and created by the banks for that purpose, is regarded as borrowed from them, and, therefore, in order that it may be repaid, is charged into the price of consumers' goods. It is a vital fallacy to treat new money thus created by the banks as a repayable loan, without crediting the community, on the strength of whose resources the money was created, with the value of the resulting new capital resources. This has given rise to a defective system of national loan accountancy, resulting in the reduction of the community to a condition of perpetual scarcity, and bringing them face to face with the alternatives of widespread unemployment of men and machines, as at present, or of international complications arising from the struggle for foreign markets.

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