NEW BOOKS

KING EDWARD VII. A BIOGRAPHY. By Sir Sidney Lee. Vol. I, From Birth to Accession. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. London, 1925.

Official biographies of personages of exalted station do not as a rule provide their readers with a mental diet that is either stimulating or satisfying. The discretion which the author must exercise takes from the vitality and vigour of his work; the deeper shades are left out of the portrait: and something of flatness of tone is likely to result. Moreover, in the case of those who have been long in the public eye, much of what we are told is that of which we are already aware. Sir Sidney Lee has not altogether escaped from these limitations to the interest and value of his *Life of King Edward VII.* It would be absurd to rank such a biography as this with the immortal works of Boswell and Lockhart. Yet it does possess an interest and value of its own, and, on the whole, the task assigned the writer by King George has been well carried out. In many respects this is a great improvement on his earlier work, the *Life of Queen Victoria;* it is more informative, and it is written with more zest. With the son's character Sir Sidney Lee is in much closer sympathy than with that of the mother, and he describes it with a livelier pen.

A singularly ill-judged educational system devised by the Prince Consort, with the approval of the Queen, for the education of the Prince of Wales must be held responsible for some at least of the short-comings of his after life, and it is strange that its effects were not worse. The unfortunate child was amiable and affectionate, and had a markedly social disposition, but he was intellectually backward, and seems to have been dull and sluggish at his lessons. At the age of seven he was given in charge to a tutor, and the long and weary cramming process was begun. Under constant surveillance, forced as time went on to study subjects the most diverse,—the classics, modern languages, history, art, political economy, archaeology and music were all included,—with the strictest limits set to the kind and the extent of his amusements, and almost altogether shut out from the companionship of other boys, it is not surprising that he acquired a permanent hatred of books, and showed signs of ill-temper which distressed his father but led to no amelioration of the severe discipline. Occasionally a few Eton boys spent an afternoon with the Prince, but on such occasions the Prince Consort was always present, and somewhat overawed the young guests. Although Lord Granville strongly advised the companionship of other lads as advantageous for the Prince of Wales, there was no relaxation on this point, and even when he was on the verge of manhood his governor was warned that he was to maintain no personal relationship except with persons in official attendance upon him, all of whom were much older than himself. It was only after the death of his father and his own marriage that he really attained independence, and was able to live his own life.

One is not surprised to learn that in reacting from a state of repression and prolonged tutelage he sought out a brighter and more genial social environment. With the indiscretions and frivolities of his early middle-age, which undoubtedly had an unfortunate influence upon English society, his biographer deals very gently. On the other hand, Sir Sidney Lee brings into strong relief the kindliness and amiability which constantly marked his intercourse with men of all ranks, and his earnest desire, felt and expressed at many periods of his life, to "be of use" in whatever way the position of heir to the throne permitted. The pertinacity with which the Queen resisted his wish to assist her in her official duties, or to have some share in the responsibilities of the Crown, shut him out for long from political influence; but it is clear that he did gradually succeed in gaining the respect as well as the liking of public men, who not unfrequently were glad to avail themselves of his tact and *savoir faire* in the solution of difficult diplomatic problems.

As Sir Sidney Lee has had access to many valuable sources of information, in regard more especially to international politics, there is much material in this volume which has an important bearing on the history of the nineteenth century. For this reason, as well as for its directly biographical interest, it is a work that demands and repays careful reading.

E. R.

THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER. By Harvey Cushing. Two Volumes. Oxford. At the Clarendon Press. 1925.

This is, in many respects, an admirable biography. Dr. Harvey Cushing is not, indeed, a master of style, and those who demand that the *Life* of a great man shall be written by one who is great in descriptive language will often find sentences or paragraphs to offend. But the biographer is a distinguished man of medicine, writing of a hero in his own art, and he has set forth the qualities of Sir William Osler so that even the layman can appreciate the grounds of his fame. In the pages of scientific and technical journals justice has been done, and will yet be done still further, to the purely medical aspects of that wonderful career. A *Review* for the general reader may more fitly dwell upon Osler's other characteristics, and upon the clarity with which these are exhibited in Dr. Cushing's work.

One lays down these volumes with the distinct feeling that a new figure has been added to the circle of great men whom one intimately knows. The opening chapters depict Osler's boyhood, and it is a very real Canadian boy that is introduced. How he got his Christian name at the earnest solicitation of an Orange Lodge in his father's Ontario parish, how he shone in athletics, how he played such boisterous pranks (including the "fumigation of the matron" with sulphur) that he was expelled from a private school, how keen was his boyish interest in observation of Nature, and how with all his natural spirit of mischief there was coupled the spirit of chivalrous generosity,—these are among the foreshadowings of what was to come. One feels after reading the

first fifty pages of Dr. Cushing's narrative that young Osler was the sort of boy who would have made glad the heart of Charles Kingsley.

The stages of his life after he entered on training for his profession, and his successive periods of professional work at McGill, Johns Hopkins, and Oxford, are presented with a like effectiveness in detail. Dr. Cushing is concerned to bring home to the reader two things, first, in what respects and with what success Osler advanced medical studies in his time, and secondly, how much more than the talents of a medical scholar or practitioner went to form his manifold and many-sided endowment. Everywhere throughout these volumes it is the events or features of real interest that are set in high relief, and very different types of reader will be fascinated in turn. To some a chief appeal will be made by those closely detailed sketches of Canadian life, especially in the Canadian universities, fifty years ago; to others the most vivid parts of the biography will be its pictures of Baltimore and Oxford; while to everyone who cares for the life story of a great man the absorbing interest will lie just in that evolution of character from strength to strength that is here shown in the biography of so notable a Canadian.

For in this Dominion Sir William Osler has never yet received his due, and one is thankful to an American writer for having written an appreciation which is likewise a satire upon our indifference. When, for example, will our Canadian Authors' Association discover that it was a boy born and educated in Ontario who produced the most celebrated of all textbooks of medicine given in our time to the English-speaking world? And if this is dismissed as merely a textbook rather than literature, when will the same Association realize that it was this boy from Ontario who contributed to our shelves of "Essays" volumes fit to stand side by side with the *Religio Medici* of his own hero, the immortal Sir Thomas Browne? It is idle to reply that Canadian literature means only books dealing with Canadian subjects. Who will suggest, for example, in Norway that the plays of Ibsen are not Norwegian literature in so far as they are not concerned with specially Norwegian life, and because their author lived so long not only outside his native land but ostentatiously regardless of its interests? How deep was the affection that Osler bore for Canada is known to all who were honoured with his acquaintance, most of all to the many Canadians to whom during the Great War his house in Oxford was ever a hospitable home.

A criticism which may be passed upon these volumes is that they are too long, and that they enter too minutely into small detail. Whether this objection is valid depends upon the stature of the man the biography presents; and it is safe to say that, for the medical profession at least, too much in this instance could hardly be told. Who would say, for example, that the private letters should have been more sparingly used? It is just in such letters, whatever their subject, and especially when they were written with no thought of publication, that an eminent man's personality is best shown. These stout and handsome volumes as they stand on one's shelf do indeed challenge comparison in appearance with such biographies as Ward's *Life of Newman* or Morley's *Life of Gladstone*, and they can appeal to no such extensive circle. But the present reviewer, at least, would not willingly

have seen them shortened. They should be read by all who feel pride in the brilliant and most lovable physician whom Canada gave to the larger life of two continents.

H. L. S.

A GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON. Compiled by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott. A New Edition, revised and augmented throughout by Henry Stuart Jones, with the assistance of Roderick McKenzie, and with the co-operation of many scholars. Oxford. At The Clarendon Press. 1925.

If a man were asked to furnish a satisfactory and comprehensive review of the universe, he might find it difficult to embrace a somewhat extensive multiplicity of detail within the boundaries of an intelligible and significant formula, or within the limits of reasonable space. A difficulty of much the same nature confronts him who attempts a review of **Liddell and Scott.** The present volume is merely Part I. of the whole work, containing the Editor's preface, the lists of authors and abbreviations, and the Greek words from the letter alpha to apobaino. About 192 pages of this edition are devoted to the Greek vocabulary up to this word. In the eighth edition like material occupied 175 pages, so that as there are 1775 pages in the eighth edition the present revision should run to nearly 2000.

The list of authors and works covers 23 pages, giving any normal student and reader of Greek a sense of helplessness as he surveys them—from Abydenus to Zosimus—and reflects not only how little he knows of nine-tenths of them, but also how much he has to learn about the rest.

New material that required to be investigated and incorporated in this edition would naturally have increased the bulk considerably, but "The space required for the incorporation of new material without an excessive increase in the bulk of the Lexicon has been saved partly by abbreviations and compendious methods of printing, partly by certain limitations of scope . . . . . . After due consideration, it has been decided to exclude both Patristic and Byzantine literature from the purview of the present edition . . . . . . Some time limit was called for, and this has been fixed roughly at A. D. 600, in order to include the historians and poets of the reign of Justinian."

The preface is a fascinating document, with its account of the growth and progress of **Liddell and Scott** from the earliest edition, based on Passow, until the present day. It is a story of patient labour and accumulation of learning that moves all to admire and the unthinking to pity,—a needless pity. Lexicography is an interesting pursuit, or it would not have had the countenance of Samuel Johnson. Professor Gilbert Murray is not usually considered one of the "harmless drudges," but he says:

> And for us personally it is surely something that our work is cast in such an exquisite material. For a large part of our working life, even if we are only arranging an *apparatus criticus*, collecting

grammatical instances, even looking over exercises and examination papers, the actual subject-matter which we handle, the bricks and mortar out of which we build, are the words and thoughts of these great men of the past.

There is no more fruitful pursuit for a civilized man than the study of words.

We find in this edition, of course, new words and new abbreviations. "PGrenf" and "PRyl" and "POsl" look odd, but they are explained in the proper place. Gildersleeve said in 1919 that "Liddell and Scott's standard lexicon is by no means free from slips" in accent. The reviewer has noted none in the present work, but he has not searched very carefully for them. Mr. McKenzie has revised the etymological remarks.

It is idle to say how great a work this will be when completed. The scholar knows, and no one else will ever understand. But everyone will be interested to learn that the German scholar Cronert, who had transcripts of some of the Epicurean writings and who had been a prisoner of war in England 1917-1919, "very kindly acceded to a request which I made to him at the suggestion of Wilamowitz-Moellendorff, and generously placed his transcripts at the disposal of Mr. Stocks, who visited him in Germany and made full use of this valuable material." And one can see why Professor Jones concludes his preface by saying of the work—"I would fain hope that in the world of science (which has, or should have, no frontiers) it may further in some small degree the restoration of the comity of nations."

E. W. NICHOLS

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION. By the Rev. W. B. Selbie, M. A., D. D., Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. Wilde Lecturer in Natural and Comparative Religion. Oxford. The Clarendon Press. 1920.

This volume, as the author states in his preface, contains the substance of two courses of lectures delivered under the Wilde Foundation at Oxford. It is intended primarily for theological students, but the writer is "not without hope that it may meet the needs of a wider public". As a distinguished theologian, Dr. Selbie has some things instructive to say to both these classes of readers, although it must be admitted that his book is of rather uneven character, showing signs of eclecticism as regards both the range of subjects and the principles of interpretation. This tendency is doubtless explained by the author's desire to present as many aspects of his topic as possible, and to do justice to the various standpoints from which religious experience may be evaluated. The title of the book is, however, open to question. While Dr. Selbie makes use of the writings of psychologists such as James, Starbuck, and Pratt, utilizing too the more recent theories of Freud, Jung and Rivers, his work can hardly claim to be a scientific psychological treatment of the subject to which it is devoted. Parts of it really fall under the headings of

anthropology, history of religions, and comparative study of religions. While it is true that the psychology of religion must derive its data in great measure from sources such as these, it is not clear in the present case that such material is subjected to an interpretation sufficiently psychological to justify its place in a work of the present title.

Dr. Selbie's book contains fifteen chapters. Of these the first deals with "The Psychological Approach to Religion". The remainder of the work is devoted to a discussion of the following subjects: the nature of religious consciousness, cult and worship, religion in relation to the individual and to society, belief in God, prayer, mysticism, sin and repentance, immortality, conversion, the unconscious in religious experience, the "new" psychology. In the chapter on religious consciousness, conceptions and institutions such as Mana, Totemism, Fetishism and Tabu are dealt with. In connection with "Cult and Worship" an account is given of a number of ceremonial rites characteristic of the Australian aborigines. Similarly in the chapters on prayer and on immortality. Dr. Selbie discusses prayer as observable in its Buddhist, Egyptian and Christian settings; while the belief in immortality is examined in relation to the animistic theory of a ghost-soul. On all these subjects the author writes in a clear and interesting manner. It may be noted in passing that he believes psychical research has afforded scientific evidence of a life after death, although he is also of the opinion that educated persons show to-day a decline of personal interest in the subject.

In examining the relation of religion to the individual and to society, Dr. Selbie criticizes the sociological theories of Durkheim, and approaches a number of topics such as mass-suggestion, and the mental influences operative in revivalistic religious gatherings. Durkheim's interpretative equation of society with God is rejected; his exclusively sociological view of religious experience is set aside on the ground that it is incompatible with the fundamental fact of self-consciousness, and fails to account for the individual character of the experiences of certain types of saint and mystic. This, however, is not to dispute the influence of the social environment upon the growth of religious consciousness, and Dr. Selbie points to the historical fact that religion commonly expresses itself within collective institutions such as the Church. In discussing the subject of revivalism he gives an interesting account of the part played by mass-suggestion, and brings into due prominence the dangers of an hysterical type of emotionalism. Statistics show that large numbers of revivalistic converts rapidly fall away from grace.

The chapters on the religion and psychology of children and adolescents, conversion, and mysticism may be taken together. Dr. Selbie's treatment of the psychology and religion of children is the weakest part of his book. The bibliography given at the end of the chapter is inadequate, and the chapter itself conveys an impression of popular generalisations rather than scientific enquiry. Adolescence and conversion are discussed along lines made familiar by Stanley Hall, James and Starbuck. This author, however, agrees with Pratt that a positive idealistic impulse plays in adolescent development a more important rôle than merely negative and distressful sense of sin.

True to the sanity of treatment which is observable throughout the book, Dr. Selbie deprecates all forms of early theological teaching which give rise to an artificial or morbid conviction of sin in the child mind. The chapter on mysticism contains an account of the well-known views of James and Dean Inge, together with interesting references to individual mystics, and a description of the three stages in "the mystic way".

In this scanty review of selected aspects of an interesting book two points have been reserved for final discussion. How does Dr. Selbie conceive of "truth" as predicated of religious experience? And what attitude does he adopt as a theologian to the body of teachings loosely comprehended under the phrase "the new psychology"? The author himself raises issues which invite some attempt to answer these enquiries. *The Psychology of Religion* contains several references to the pragmatist conception of truth; but these are not always easy to reconcile with one another. Thus in Chapter III James's position is criticized;—"Religious ideas that are not true can never be made true by any practical results which may follow from them" (p. 67). A similar view is expressed on p. 118. On the other hand, passages are not lacking in which the author appears almost in the guise of a pragmatist. Thus, "belief in the existence of God and a spiritual world can be at best but a working hypothesis, but it is an hypothesis which meets the facts of the case, and to man's intelligence makes sense of the universe better than any other. It also satisfies some of the deepest needs and cravings of our nature, and has at least that much of psychological justification" (p. 298). Again, "the ultimate test is the pragmatic one of the workableness of the result arrived at". "In religion the test of the hypothesis is its power to make for the advancement of the individual and of society" (p. 301). It seems fair to say that Dr. Selbie believes truth is "correspondence" (or possibly "coherence"), but that in practice he is unable to escape pragmatist formulations. He is certainly not the only seeker after truth to find himself in this situation!

Finally, how does Dr. Selbie conceive of psychology in relation to religion? His main insistence is placed upon the view that religion is a function of the *whole* personality. He therefore rejects views such as those of Schroeder, for whom religion is almost exclusively a product of sexuality; and while he does full justice to the affective and conative elements in religious experience, he is able also to point to the one-sidedness of formulations such as those of Schleiermacher, Ritschl and Harnack. So far as the "new" psychology is concerned, his attitude towards it is in the nature of a compromise. While he incorporates into his views some of the conceptions of modern dynamic psychology, he is not without apprehension that the new psychology tends to interpret religion in terms of mere subjectivism. It is, however, doubtful whether his own attempt to keep the scales even is altogether free from inconsistency. Thus Freud is accused of confusing the abnormal with the normal; but Dr. Selbie himself elsewhere admits in speaking of the unconscious that "it is very difficult to say where the normal ends and the abnormal begins" (p. 81). Another example is found in the rather ambiguous conclusions reached in relation to

prayer. While the author admits the paramount importance of auto-suggestion in prayer, he yet contends that divine forces are at work within this auto-suggestion. "It is certainly not necessary to eliminate the idea of the operation of the Spirit of God, because we find in auto-suggestion the mode in which or the channel through which His spirit works" (p. 223). The subject of prayer is admittedly a complex one, but it is doubtful whether its difficulties can be solved in this fashion. With regard to the remaining points at which the author touches upon the new psychology, the chapter on the Unconcious and the statements of Freud's and Jung's views with which the book closes will be found helpful, although the treatment of these subjects is necessarily somewhat brief and summary.

When all is said, *The Psychology of Religion* remains on the whole a very readable and thought-provoking book, for which both students of theology and the educated public may be thankful. It remains to point out a feature which should have been noted at the outset, namely, that Dr. Selbie's book contains a short preface by the Bishop of Gloucester, who is General Editor of the series of Oxford Handbooks of Theology of which the present volume is the commencement.

N. J. Symons.

Memoir 140—Physiography of Nova Scotia. By J. W. Goldthwait. Geological Survey, Department of Mines, Ottawa. 1924.

A book dealing exclusively with the physical features of Nova Scotia had been long overdue. In *Memoir 140* that want has been supplied, and a valuable contribution made to the literature descriptive of the province. It is based upon fieldwork done by the author during the summers of 1913 and 1914.

Because of "the interest taken by the people of Nova Scotia in the scenery around them, as well as the evident appreciation by summer visitors of Nova Scotia as a vacation ground," the memoir was written "for the general reader rather than for the specialist". As a consequence, the opening chapter deals in an elementary way with the evolution of landscapes—the work of rain, running water, winds, waves and ice in producing and modifying land forms.

The effect of the rock sculpture is next illustrated in the large features of the region where the resistant rocks have withstood erosion better than the softer ones, thus producing the natural divisions of Uplands and Lowlands. The origin of these upland and lowland tracts is interestingly told, and so many localities are referred to that an investigator in almost any place in the province may be helped by a study of the memoir.

To the physiographer the greatest interest will perhaps lie in the treatment of the region as a unit. A study of the relief features shows that there is a general increase in altitude of the higher elevations from the Atlantic coast of the peninsula northwestward across the South and North Mountains, across the Cobequid Mountains into New Brunswick, and from the southeast of Cape Breton to the northwest

of the Island. An imaginary surface resting upon these high points would form an inclined-plane sloping towards and under the Atlantic Ocean. The beds of underlying rock do not, however, conform to this imaginary plane, but show that they were at various times in their history disturbed by folding, faulting, and invasions of molten material, as well as subjected to the action of wearing-down processes. The conclusion arrived at by the author is that there was a time when this country was an extensive plain worn down to near sea level. There followed a tilting to the northwest; and since then erosion processes have produced valleys in soft rock, leaving the harder rock as the outstanding elevations—to be later modified by the ice-sheet.

To the glaciologist, Dr. Goldthwait's findings regarding the ice-sheet are of much interest. From a close study of the glacial scratches and the dispersion of the drift, the conclusion is reached that the centre of radiation of the ice-sheet that covered Nova Scotia was to the northwest of the province, and that there was "an earlier advance from New Brunswick reaching to the eastern end of Cape Breton Island, and a later advance of the Acadian Bay lobe covering the northern part of the province from northern Cape Breton to the head of the Bay of Fundy". Deposits of drift left by the retreating ice and spread over the province will appeal to the general reader as well as to the specialist. The influence of this drift upon the drainage of the country is shown in the numerous lakes, and in the diverted river courses. Dr. Goldthwait's treatment of the shore-line development and the relative change of level between sea and land will not fail to interest, as so many of our rivers have their lower courses drowned by an advance of the sea over the lower portions of the land surface.

Illustrations in the book are good and well chosen; the work of the publishers is well done; and in a pocket at the back is a map "showing the physiographic divisions and some effects of glaciation". This *Memoir* is one that all interested in the physiography of Nova Scotia should consult.

D. S. McIntosh.

Europe Overseas. By James A. Williamson. London. Oxford University Press. Humphrey Milford. 1925.

Modern Political Theory. By C. E. M. Joad. Oxford. At the Clarendon Press. 1924.

These little books appear in a new series of introductory volumes called *The World's Manuals*, some twenty-five in number, designed by the editors "not only to give the student who is undertaking a special study some idea of the landmarks which will guide him, but to make provision for the great body of general readers."

The two primers before us admirably carry out these purposes. *Europe Overseas* is surprisingly compact, yet adequate to its theme. In less than 150 pages the Europeanization of the world has been traced in clear outline. The underlying motives of expansion are duly indicated. "Christians and spices," in Vasco de Gama's phrase, were

among the chief. A preliminary survey of mediaeval commerce opens the subject up. Muscovy and the Levant, Sinbad and Marco Polo, Venice, Genoa and the Hanseatic towns, all file past. Then follow the epic days of the age of discovery. From that on, the process of expansion unfolds. It proceeds "mainly by the sea...The true units in which the interest of the subject groups itself are the oceans rather than the continents." First Spain and Portugal hold the stage; then the Dutch; after them the long duel, East and West, between England and France. The nineteenth century gives us the independent Americas and the British Dominions; the twentieth presents problems of its own. But the book is not concerned only with tendencies. It is brimful of facts. Tobacco, sugar, rubber, slaves, bulk large in the story. Nor does it escape observation that this overseas expansion has been perhaps the chief determinant of modern history:

> The growing colonial markets led to an increase in the industrial population at home. The capital accumulated from this trade, rendered more flexible by the development of banks and joint-stock companies, was available for the exploitation of new methods of production. The result was the industrial revolution of the latter half of the eighteenth century; for the machines, the adjunct of the markets and the money, were rapidly invented as the demand for them arose.

The questions of the future are adumbrated, if not answered. We are left staring at the Pacific, with still further conflicts looming up. Whatever their issue, however, European expansion as such has probably seen its most spacious days.

Modern Political Theory discusses for the most part the various schools of socialistic doctrine. The Absolutist theory of State, as set forth by Hegel and Green, and the Individualism of the Mills and Herbert Spencer, are given a chapter each. The rest of the book is concerned with theories of Socialism. But no disparagement to other schools is intended. The author merely holds the mirror up to modern political thought. Of books in the field to-day most "are written more or less definitely from a Socialist standpoint. Even those writers who are hostile to Socialism spend most of their time in criticizing it. Thus Socialism occupies the centre of interest even when it does not take pride of place." The antecedents of Socialism, the Marxian doctrines, the philosophy of the movement, and the aims and methods of conflicting programmes—the Collectivist State, Syndicalism and Guild Socialism, Communism and Anarchism—are alike treated with commendable impartiality. One suspects, however, that the author inclines to the Guild Socialists. "It follows that if men's faith in social action is to be revivified, the State must be cut up and its functions distributed." In method Mr. Joad is evolutionary. His survey leads to the belief that "the policy of gradual reform...is likely to secure advances of a more permanent, albeit of a less startling, character than the methods of the revolution and of the class war." As a *coup d'oeil*, this volume may be commended for a fair, succinct and balanced account of present-day theories of the State.

H. F. M.

CANADIAN FEDERATION. By Reginald George Trotter. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. Toronto. 1924.

Assiduous study given to political origins is a sure sign that a people has developed a sense of nationality. Coke would not let pass any syllable of *Magna Carta* "in respect of the excellency of the matter." The Americans have long since sifted out every last particle of information about the Fathers and their Constitution. For years to come Canadians will probably imitate them. The causes and results of Confederation, the *dramatis personae*, their aims and methods, will more and more come under critical analysis, such as we get in *Canadian Federation* by Professor Trotter, of the Department of History in Stanford University.

Professor Trotter's "frame of reference" is primarily the economic. The political phases are by no means passed over (they occupy more than a third of the book), but the essential contribution is the economic interpretation of Canadian history from, say, 1848 to the acquisition of the North-West Territory in 1870. Especially does he give their meed of praise to the financier, the railway promoter, the engineer. "They were moulders of empire, as truly as those who were by profession political leaders...Their influence, direct and indirect, upon the course of public events deserves marked attention." Communications and transportation—the long struggle to realize geographic unity—make up the main theme in the story of Canadian federation as presented by Professor Trotter.

In the thirties and forties, schemes for inter-provincial communication had proved failures. Then came Francis Hincks and the Grand Trunk era. The American policy, adopted in 1845, of allowing drawbacks on through traffic, linked up Portland with Montreal. It is of interest, however, to recall that a railway was also projected "from Portland to Halifax or perhaps to Canso," and a line of fast steamers thence to Ireland. Between the failure of Imperial guarantees and the exigencies of politics, the Maritime railway project dropped out of sight, and the Grand Trunk became an "organized mess." But Professor Trotter takes a long view of the period:

> In spite of politicians, nevertheless, the Grand Trunk Railway was probably worth what it cost the public....Considering the whole struggle for federation, and its final accomplishment, the question may well be asked whether it is not an important asset to the friends of that movement in British America that powerful financial and industrial leaders in the Old Country, having become vitally interested in the economic development of the colonies, became in consequence a highly influential factor in pushing the federation project through to a successful completion.

Among those whom the railroad era brought to Canada was Edward W. Watkin, a representative of the Barings, who came out in 1861 as superintending commissioner of the Grand Trunk. The Duke of Newcastle had been out the year before with the Prince, and had returned "impressed by the possibility for the future development of British America." Watkin was an intimate of the Duke's, and together they promoted the interests of the provinces in London. Already Watkin had caught the wider vision:

> Try to realize........a main through railway, of which the first thousand miles belong to the Grand Trunk Company, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific, made just within—as regards the north-western and unexplored district—the corn-growing latitude. The result to this empire would be beyond calculation. It would be something, in fact, to distinguish the age itself; and the doing of it would make the fortune of the Grand Trunk.

But the Intercolonial was part of his scheme as well. To promote it, Watkin visited the Lower Provinces in 1862, met Howe and Tilley, and arranged an excursion of Maritime representatives to the Upper Provinces to talk things over. The occasion was convivial; Howe looked upon it as "one of the most delightful excursions of his life." There resulted a delegation to England in the autumn. Newcastle was sympathetic, but Gladstone regarded the delegates with "the expression of a man on his guard against a canvasser or a dun." And so on. Delegations, memoranda, financial juggle, misunderstanding, hope deferred, lead on to the Conferences of 1864 and the adoption of the Intercolonial project, as "auxiliary to the great work of Confederation." Throughout, the building of this road was regarded as a factor promotive of union, not a mere result flowing from it. It was to offer to the Lower Provinces, in the words of the Nova Scotian delegates of 1857, "a ready access to the vast field of enterprise and progress occupied by their fellow-subjects in the interior."

The other chief economic factor leading to Confederation was the acquisition of the North-West. Here again Mr. Watkin played an important rôle, both in projects of communication and in the transfer of the financial control of the Hudson's Bay Company to a group interested in linking up West with East. Others—Sir Sandford Flemming among them—had their part in this unification of the scattered provinces, but Watkin seems to have planted and watered the ideas that afterwards bore the fruit.

Just now, when the bases of Confederation are under scrutiny in certain quarters, a careful study of *Canadian Federation* is well worth while. It harks back to first principles, shows that difficulties were surmounted, and suggests what political capacity may do to solve in a national way the problems that lie ahead. Professor Trotter's book is not a "literary" history. It avoids political portraiture and fine writing, and—above all—partisan bias. Its aim is "a serious study of first-hand sources, and a conscientious effort to find and tell the truth." The new material it brings together, its accuracy, fairness, and sound judgments stamp it as a worthy piece of historical research.

H. F. M.

FEDERATIONS AND UNIONS WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE. By Hugh Edward Egerton. Second Edition. Oxford. At the Clarendon Press. 1924.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND ITS UNSOLVED PROBLEMS. By C. M. MacInnes. Longmans, Green & Co. London. 1925.

One of the most recent of political entities is the British Commonwealth. Before the war we used to speak rather loosely of the British Empire, but the Commonwealth of to-day differs *toto coelo* from any concept of empire known to history. It is a new thing under the sun, and demands careful study in all its several parts. Next to the problem of world organization, nothing more engages the attention of political scientists. Literature on the subject is becoming prolific—and with reason. The Commonwealth, if it holds together, may point the way to effective co-operation on an international scale.

It is well that a book such as Egerton's *Federations* continues to hold the field. It was published first in 1911, and now appears in a second edition, with references and notes brought down to date. The chief merit of the book is that it brings together the three great constitutional Acts of the British Dominions. The movements leading to union in each case, the problems faced and the different solutions attained are discussed in an informative introduction which, for purposes of comparison, includes accounts of earlier federations proposed or attempted in the American colonies before the Revolution. A running commentary, with valuable comparative annotations, is given in footnotes, while sources and essential documents are indicated in a well selected bibliography. The volume makes an admirable textbook on the government of the British Commonwealth. Indeed, if the recent Constitution of the Irish Free State (though not strictly coming within the scope of the title) were included, the exposition of Dominion self-government would be complete.

In *The British Commonwealth and its Unsolved Problems* Mr. MacInnes, a Dalhousian, now Lecturer in History at the University of Bristol, leaves one in no doubt as to his own point of view. A recent article in *The Yale Review*, by a prominent American historian, finds reason to believe that the British Empire has passed the height of its greatness: "A long, slow decline has begun." To this conclusion Mr. MacInnes would not affix his Q. E. D. That the fundamental problem of the survival of the Commonwealth, as a sovereign political unity, exists, with its many corollary problems in every part of the Britannic world, is the thesis he unfolds on every page. But that Fate has already pronounced her Euclidean decree, assigning the British Empire to the *res iudicatae* of history, follows not as yet. On the contrary, in Mr. MacInnes's opinion, the Commonwealth may build more stately political mansions than ever, if her citizens but envisage their possibilities, and their political capacity be not exhausted. To check "unbridled nationalism" and to make the notion of international unity prevail, are among the most insistent of world needs:

> Among present world-states there is none more fitted for this task than the British Empire. As General Smuts once said, it is in itself a League of Nations; for all those great problems which the League must solve in the future are reproduced on a smaller scale within its borders. It contains representatives of almost every race, every colour, and every creed; almost every stage in human development between the Australian aboriginal and civilized man can be found among its citizens. It may well be that in the future, when the League has grown to maturity, and can speak with the authority of civilization, the work of the Empire will be done. That time, however, is still far distant, and for the present and for the immediate future it is to a considerable extent upon the fortunes of the British Empire that civilization depends.

And it is as a "League of Nations" that Mr. MacInnes would have the Commonwealth evolve. He is neither autonomist nor federationist:

> With all its advantages, ... Imperial Federation is, for the present at least, impossible. Almost every Dominion statesman has condemned it, usually on the ground that it would destroy Dominion nationalism, and their internal autonomy.. It follows, therefore, that if the Dominions propose to remain within the Empire, they have only one course open to them;—they must develope the system of co-operation and consolidation which worked so well during the War and at the Peace Conference.

But will this square with the dogma of the Austinian school? If not, it is Austin that must go:

> If the theory of sovereignty as understood in the past is inapplicable to the British Commonwealth of to-day, it is the theory which is wrong, not the British Commonwealth. The Austinian doctrine of sovereignty was formulated by political philosophers to explain a form of political society which no longer exists.

British Imperialism, Mr. MacInnes finds, represents two chief principles—democratic self-government, and the trusteeship of backward races. In the light of these, the Commonwealth is a great laboratory "where important political experiments may be tried.... experiments upon whose success or failure will, to a considerable extent, depend the fate of civilization and the course of history."

The major portion of this valuable study is devoted to the problems of India. The evolution of Indian self-government, the régime of the Dyarchy, the status of India in the Commonwealth, and its relations to the Dominions and the Crown Colonies, are all set forth as phases of a world-wide problem, the solution of which is so vital "that in the search for a settlement...no expenditure of treasure, time and human endeavor can be deemed too great."

In a word, Mr. MacInnes's book is timely, suggestive and satisfactory, dealing with large problems in a large way.

H. F. M.