

Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS.

"THE ICONOCLAST," by Helen Hamilton (1s 3d net, postage 3d. C. W. Daniel, Ltd., 3 Tudor St., E.C.)

This is a clever story of a woman's attempt at emancipation. The author evidently believes the school mistresses' profession has a stultifying effect upon the mind, but most people will not agree with her as to this. The book is well worth reading.

"THE SLAVERY OF OUR TIMES," by Leo Tolstoy, is published by C. W. Daniels, Limited, Graham House, Tudor Street, London, E.C. (One shilling and three pence.)

The translation is by Aymer Maude, who also supplies a brilliant introduction. The book, as with all of the author's writings, is filled with sensible, homely philosophy, as in the chapter on the Justification of the Existing System when he writes: "This wonderful blindness which befalls people of our circle can only be explained by the fact that when people behave badly they always invent a philosophy of life which represents their bad actions to be not bad actions at all, but merely results of unalterable laws beyond our control. In former times such a view of life was found in the theory that an inscrutable and unalterable will of God existed which fore-ordained to some men a humble position and hard work, and to others an exalted position and the enjoyment of the good things of life. Then the very last explanation, after the emancipation of the slaves, was that wealth is entrusted by God to some people in order that they may use part of it in good works; and so there is no harm in some people being rich and others poor."

"IS CHRISTIANITY PRACTICABLE?" by William Adams Brown, Ph.D., D.D., Union Seminary; lecturer on Christianity in the Far East, is published (\$1.25 net) by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City.

The substance of the different chapters was delivered in the form of lectures in Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, and Tokyo under the auspices of the Federation of Japanese Churches. In the preface, the author says: "But in truth the issue here raised transcends all local or national limitations. The question whether Christianity is a practicable religion is not simply a missionary question; it is a human question. Indeed, we may say without exaggeration that it is the human question, the question upon our answer to which our hope for the future of mankind depends. Is force to be the ultimate word in human affairs, or is there something higher and more compelling?"

He thinks "One of the most striking features of the last two years has been their revelation of the failure of the churches to exercise any controlling influence upon the national policy of the so-called Christian nations."

The author is not a pacifist. He says: "If love and non-resistance were synonyms pacifists would be in the right, but it is not clear that this is true. To refrain from fighting when others than myself are concerned may be the part of selfishness rather than courage. Had Belgium not resisted Germany, it might have been better for Belgium, but what would have been the consequences for France?" He pleads with Japan to choose wisely between the two possibilities. "There is on the one hand the policy of imperialistic nationalism, with its corollary in militarism, and on the other the policy of international co-operation and brotherhood and preparedness indeed, but preparedness which is directed to the single end of promoting good feeling between the nations and so removing the preventable causes of war. . . . You have proved yourselves masters of the art of war. Will you be able to show an equal mastery of the greater and the more difficult, and may I add, the more heroic art of peace?" There are many fine passages throughout the book, and it is quite clear the author thinks internationally. He writes: "There is nothing in the ideal of human brotherhood as such in which Christians can claim exclusive proprietorship. It is shared by all who believe in internationalism in any form. Whoever refuses to accept the ideals of nationalism and of imperialism as the final word for humanity and in spite of discouragements still hopes for the reorganization of society along lines expressive of the common interest, whoever, in short, regards mankind as greater than any of its parts and consecrates his life to its service, faces in principle the same issue which confronts Christians to-day."

THE MANUAL OF INTER-CHURCH WORK is issued by "The Federal Council of Churches," 105 East 22nd Street, New York City—price 60 cents, postpaid.

The church is moving toward two main objectives—co-operative administration and higher efficiency. Business men are taking a new interest in community service and united religious work while the progressives among the clergy are taking new heart. The 200 inspiring pages show clearly that the Church Federation has gone beyond the experimental stage and is now a settled principle in the statesmanship of modern Christianity. The introduction is by Fred B. Smith, who is doing such splendid service in promoting interdenominational co-operation.

"THE LAW OF TRADE-MARKS AND DESIGNS IN CANADA," by Russell S. Smart, B.A., M.E., of the Ontario and Quebec Bars, Ottawa, and joint author with Mr. Harold Fisher, of "Fisher and Smart on Patents," has been issued by Canada Law Book Company, Limited, Toronto, and Cromarty Law Book Company, 1112 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

A collection of reports of all the trade-mark cases decided in Canada down to the fall of 1903 may be found in volume 3 of the Commercial Law Reports (Annotated) published in 1904, by the Canada Law Book Company. A number of annotations from these reports appear as part of Mr. Smart's book.

The early English cases are dealt with as are the British Acts from 1875 to 1905. The differences between the English and Canadian Acts are clearly shown and chapters are devoted to a discussion of Classification, General or Specific Trade Marks; Registration; Acquisition and Abandonment; Transfer or Assignment of Trade-Marks; Rectification and Alteration of Register; Action for Infringement; Passing Off Actions; Criminal Prosecution; Trade Names; Designs and a particularly valuable chronological review of the various Canadian statutes dealing with trade-marks and design.

Lawyers and business men will find this book of about two hundred pages a well worth while addition to their library.

"ENGLAND'S DEBT TO INDIA." A Historical Narrative of Britain's Fiscal Policy in India is by Lajpat Rai, author of "Young India," and is published by B. W. Huebsch, New York, at \$2.00 net.

"The toad beneath the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth-point goes.
The butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to the toad."

In "Young India" British rule in India, from the political standpoint was discussed. In this its economic effects are discussed and statements of fact are support by British testimony, official and non-official. The author says he hesitated to quote Indian publicists because "Every Britisher believes that an Indian critic of British rule is necessarily affected by the 'inevitable racial and political bias' of his position, while he in his turn is entirely free from it."

A history of the cotton industry from the earliest time to date is given in one chapter and so also with shipping and shipbuilding.

The arguments are given for and against the contention that England gets more advantage from the present fiscal arrangements than India are given at length.

Whether or not one agrees with the author's conclusions, one must agree that he has written a most interesting book.

The author says: "There is talk of great adjustment being made in the British Empire, after the war. India is also on the tip-toe of expectations. The Jingo Imperialists in England and India are already making proposals which if accepted, are sure to cause further economic loss to India. Some want India to take over a part of the British war debt; others are looking with jealous eyes at India's 'horded wealth'—the existence of which is known only to them. . . . The book is not written in a spirit of hostility to British rule. It is not my object to irritate or to excite. What I aim at is to give matter for thought and reflection and to supply a reason for the exercise of restraint in the determination of the fiscal policy which British statesmen may decide to follow towards India after the war."

"THE BOLSHEVIKI AND WORLD PEACE," by Leon Trotsky, with an introduction by Lincoln Steffens, the American writer, is issued in Canada by The Mussen Book Co., Limited, cor. East Dundas and Victoria Streets, Toronto, the price being \$1.50.

From a Bronx tenement to the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs for Russia in the short space of six months makes a striking contrast. The book shows that Trotsky is not an anarchist, "except in the ignorant sense of the word, as used by educated people." He is a Socialist; an orthodox Marxian Socialist. The principle part of this book was addressed originally to the German and Austrian Socialists, and is the author's protest for letting their political position and their nationalistic loyalty carry them away into an undemocratic, patriotic, political policy which betrayed the weaker nations in their enterprises, helped break up the Second (Socialist) International and led the Socialist (German and Socialist) parties into the support of the war. The book was written (the main part) after the war began and before the Russian Revolution.

His book shows he is Anti-Prussian, Anti-Hohen-zollern, Anti-Hapsburg.

He shows a knowledge of and a sympathy with the small and subject nations which Austria rules, exploits and mistreats and he blames his Austrian comrades for their allegiance to a throne which is undemocratic and tyrannical. Mr. Steffens says "I find upon inquiry here in New York that while he was living and working as a journalist on the East Side, he left one paper after another because he could not conform to their editorial policies and would not compromise. He was 'stiff-necked,' 'obstinate,' 'unreasonable.' In other, kinder words, Trotsky is a strong man, with a definite mind and a purpose of his own, which he has the will and the nerve to pursue."

"A republic under the form of a monarchy"—Montesquieu. THE GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, NATIONAL, LOCAL AND IMPERIAL, by David Duncan Wallace, Ph.D., Professor of History and Economics in Wofford College, is issued by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2 West 45th Street, New York. The price is \$2.00 net.

The general reader wishing a brief, untechnical account of the British Government will find this a convenient handbook. The author has described the English Government as it is, without distracting the reader with a long account of how it came to be what it is. He has avoided the all too common habit of first describing the government as it is supposed to be in theory and then explaining at length that it is not really this.

The author has shown the resemblances and contrasts between the Government of England and that of the United States, and the practical lessons thus supplied should be of great value to students of government everywhere.

It should encourage reformers to know that: "Several generations ago politics in England were more corrupt than anywhere now in America, except the very worst spots. Yet to-day public sentiment and law have been so far improved that corruption is much rarer than in our (U.S.A.) country, many writers even going the unwarrantable length of saying that it is non-existent."

He favors the flexibility of the unwritten constitution. "Thus the English constitution is in continual gradual change, and new social and economic problems are being experimented upon with a freedom which is not possible under our rigid written constitution."

He advises greater co-operation in the United States between the legislative and executive departments. "The fact that we have delayed this reform so long is doubtless in large measure due to the deeply ingrained feeling of hostility to the interference of the executive derived from the experience of the colonies with George III."

The author strongly advocates the English budget system so that expenditure and income can be kept in closer agreement. It is pointed out that though England has felt the wave of modern democracy very powerfully, she yet has many features directly opposed to democracy. "Chief of these is the ownership of the land by a small number of landlords. About fourteen hundred persons own half the land in England, and in Scotland and Ireland the concentration of ownership has been still more decided, though in Ireland great improvement has been wrought by the land purchase acts. The vast rents of these lands maintain in ease hundreds of very wealthy men whose existence is of no benefit to the country."