

Has England Failed in Egypt?

A DETAILED analysis of the balance sheet of the English occupation of Egypt is contributed to *La Revue* by Jehan d'Ivray. This French writer admits that the British occupation has been in the interest of the Egyptians themselves, although of course, he contends that France has been ill used in the entire affair. He condemns the English, however, for introducing alcoholic liquors into Egypt, and criticizes the occupation in other minor points. In general he says, that in the matter of material wealth and the immediate satisfaction of physical wants Egypt has gained much from the English occupation; but, while her system of colonization is good from the material viewpoint, England, "I believe, has failed deplorably from the humanitarian standpoint. The English have created new wants in Egypt, and, it is true, have provided the means in many cases to satisfy these wants." To aid a people in paying their debts is good, "but to teach them and help them not to contract other debts would be much better." The best work which the British have accomplished in Egypt is to be found in the military reforms, in finance, and in the irrigation works. Far otherwise, however, are the British efforts at judicial reform. The writer protests against the introduction of Englishmen into judicial tribunals to the exclusion of the natives. The British justices, he says, not only have no knowledge of the Arabic language, but many of them know very little about law. In the schools, the French language has been suppressed and replaced by English, and the native justices are required to study English as it is easier for them to learn something of that lan-

guage than it is for the British to acquire a knowledge of theirs. The result is, the new native justices has given up the practice of studying in France, and are satisfied with an inferior training in their own country. Thus, the judicial condition of the country has returned to the deplorable ignorance complained of twenty years ago.

While Britain has been happy in the reforms she has brought about in the domain of agriculture and finance, her influence in the domain of education has been disastrous. Nearly all the French professors of Cairo and Alexandria have been replaced by Englishmen, and even in the provinces, native teachers who have passed some time in England, or have acquired a knowledge of English, are chosen. The curriculum of studies has been lowered, and the pupils are adepts at football and tennis. The school of medicine has recently had to close its doors owing to lack of pupils, with the result that in 1904 only twenty native doctors, against eighty foreigners, applied for permission to practice their art in Egypt. In every domain the British have the best posts, and the doors are closed to the natives. "The Egyptian is kept in a veritable state of servitude. He is taught nothing which could awaken in him ideas of justice and humanity. Alcoholism has spread like a train of fire. The British have introduced their bars. Whiskey is sovereign on the banks of the Nile, as in India brandy takes the place of bread." As with Malta and India, and all the conquests of Aibion, Egypt is regarded as a source of revenue, and little concern is shown for the condition of the worker or producer.