

of the best of these was a series of papers written by experts, which were published in the *New York Sun*. These are now issued in this handsome volume. The treatment is, of course, very succinct, but a vast amount of useful information is compressed within these pages. It is gratifying to know that two distinguished Canadians are among the writers—Dr. William Osler, who writes on Medicine, and Professor Goldwin Smith, whose long residence in Canada warrants us in claiming him as one of ourselves. British authorities are largely in evidence, thus Alfred R. Wallace writes on Evolution; Professor Ramsay on Chemistry; Professor Flinders-Petrie on Archaeology; Sir J. Lockyer on Astronomy; Professor Caird on Philosophy; Professor Thomson on Electricity; Sir Charles Dilke on War; Andrew Lang on Literature. Among the American contributors are Captain Mahan on Naval Matters; Thomas C. Clarke writes on Engineering; Cardinal Gibbons on Catholicism; Professor Allen, of Cambridge, on Protestantism; Professor Gottheil on The Jews and Judaism; and Professor Goldwin Smith on Free Thought. These names are a guarantee that the respective subjects are treated with the authority of experts which, in matters of fact, leaves no appeal. In matters of opinion, however, even the authority of a great name is not a court of final appeal.

"Monopolies Past and Present." An Introductory Study. By James Edward Le Rossignol, Ph.D., Professor of Economics in the University of Denver. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. vii-253. Price, \$1.25.

It is a marked tribute to our Canadian universities that so many of their students so soon reach professorial positions in American universities, and recognition in American literature. Of these brilliant students Professor Le Rossignol, a distinguished alumnus of our own Victoria, is a conspicuous example. His book is a model of condensed information on important subjects, and of eminently sane conclusions from a wide induction of facts.

The question of monopolies is no new thing under the sun. They did not begin with Messrs. Rockefeller

and Morgan. Professor Le Rossignol traces them back to Egypt and Greece. They abounded in mediæval times. Then, as now, the Church was the champion of the poor. It demanded a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and this economic principle was incorporated into the Canon Law.

The story of the mediæval guilds is one of romantic interest. Twelve of these survive in London, by whom the aldermen and officials of the city are still elected. Few of their members have any connection with the trade to which they nominally belong. There are generals who are Haberdashers, and scientists who are Fishmongers. Mr. Le Rossignol quotes some of the quaint rules of these old guilds:

"Item, that no man sett up a loome within hys howsse, but if he have been prentyse VII. yere at the occupation, under payne of ten pounds."

"There shall no woman worke in any worke concernyng this occupation within this town."

"None to take an apprentice or workman aliant-born."

"If any barber who is a foreigner shall draw teeth in any part of the town except in a barber's shop, he shall forfeit twelve pence each time."

"No cobler to amend shoes or bootes with bad stuffe or at unreasonable rates or keep them longer than two daies."

"Not to work after 9 p.m. on Saturdays."

"Item, that every brother of this saide brotherhoo' shall bring up reverentlie their servauntes in the feare of God."

"Any craftsman who shall brybe, purloyne, or stele above seven pence, and to persist, to be cast out utterly for ever."

The Hanseatic League embraced at one time eighty-five principal German cities, and largely controlled trade. The East and West India Companies, the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies are survivals to the present day of these merchant corporations. Interesting chapters are given on patents, copyrights, municipal, railway and capitalistic monopolies. The superb organization of the trusts and combines can certainly cause much economy of management, but that the consumer may obtain the benefit of these it is essential that the trusts and combines shall not override the authority and control of the laws.