

months course, with no serious examination at the end, is ludicrously insufficient.

Commerce left to itself is, as I have said, sure to be selfish and apt to be short-sighted; but a commerce controlled by a sympathetic expert can afford to take long views, and in such commerce so regulated lies the surest hope for the amelioration of the native. It is the whole burden of the books of Mr. Alleyne Ireland, the greatest British expert on the subject, that the degree of enlightenment of a tropical community may be measured by its economic progress, that political progress cannot go far in advance of economic. Commerce is selfish; the individual merchant is often short-sighted; but commerce is essentially peaceful, and commerce must from very selfishness desire the economic advancement of the native, and must study native law and custom in order to get therefrom the best results. So that in a system in which the predatory greed of the individual trader is indeed controlled, but controlled in the interests of the economic advancement of the whole community by men sympathetic with and acquainted with commerce, seems to me to lie the future for West Africa. It is a lesson which Great Britain has not yet learned; but we have a right to learn as well from her failures as from her success.

The problem once solved of getting honest administrators, a problem which Great Britain has successfully solved, and capable administration, wherein her success has been less encouraging, the question arises of saving these experts from the interference of ignorance and interest. Such interference has again and again involved Great Britain in the greatest difficulties, and becomes increasingly common with the modern increase of publicity.

This interference has come much more from the good than from the selfish, and has taken two main forms, the parliamentary and the philanthropic, the second chiefly, though by no means solely, carried on by the missionaries.

From parliamentary influence of the baser sort, of the kind which has made such havoc in the civil service of France and of the United States, Great Britain has of late years been very free. In the India Office or in the Colonial Office the clerks owe their promotion not to their friendship with some powerful M.P., but in part to seniority and in part to good service. The same thing holds good of the Indian service, and of the service in the Far East, which is also controlled by an independent commission. In the service in tropical