

With the increasing tendency of Governments to absorb a larger share of the national resources the study of Government expenditure becomes ever more important. The French humorist whose political platform was "More from the Treasury and less from the taxpayer" was perhaps building better than he knew if Governments can achieve greater results at less expense. It must, however, be understood that these Lectures are not a criticism, still less a description, of British administration in particular. Examples have been occasionally drawn from well-known features of the British system as a more direct and intelligible appeal to those who attended the Lectures. But although official permission was sought and obtained for their delivery, the Lectures contain no official information and have no official authority.

So much interest has been taken in the references to the American Commission that it may be convenient to state here that, so far as I am aware, there is no European literature upon the subject. The Commission's method is, after personal study of a Department, to draw up a sketch of its functions, organisation, and methods, to settle this descriptive outline with the Department itself, and upon this agreed basis of fact to build its constructive suggestions. The Reports will be found in the Library of the British Museum, Press Mark AS 10. For copies of the Reports and Circulars of the