

succeeded in presenting a first-hand picture of a man who was singularly charming, and often singularly elusive. For, in spite of all this varied contact with the world, Walker was fundamentally, to the very end, a shy and retiring man. The one place where he was unreservedly happy was in his own home, and among the circle of those he knew best. Those who saw his handsome face and finished manner in his office or on the platform little suspected what diffidence that presence concealed or what effort every public utterance cost. Most men who suffer from this sort of shyness tend to protect themselves by raising artificial barriers between them and their fellows. Not so with Walker. His instinct was to think of others rather than of himself, of their possible embarrassment rather than of his own; and his very shyness, when thus combined with unselfishness, led him to do all in his power to put others at their ease. To younger men in particular, he was unremitting in courtesy and fertile in constructive suggestion. This was the secret of the enthusiasm which he inspired among his fellow workers; and it is a peculiar merit of the book before us that it helps the reader to understand the source of that enthusiasm and that inspiration. Mr. Munroe has given us, not merely an epitome of a singularly varied and interesting career, but an intimate picture of the life of a man who was even greater than his works.

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*New Haven, Conn.*

*Economics for Everyman—An Introduction to Social Economics.* By JAMES E. LE ROSSIGNOL. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1923. Pp. 322.)

*Economics for Everyman* is not a "potboiler" of the conventional type, with the customary cut-and-dried chapters on economic history, production, consumption, business organization, money, banking, value, distribution, rent, wages, interest, etc. The book differs in a number of respects from most elementary texts on economics. In the first place Dean Le Rossignol has made liberal use of material from all the social sciences, particularly from history and sociology. The historical background of modern questions is everywhere stressed, and the historical material is not dumped in a few chapters at the beginning, but is used in connection with the particular problems it is intended to illuminate. Similarly, there is included material from what would ordinarily be called commercial geography, but it is used "where it will do the most good," in connection with specific economic questions. Professor Le Rossignol's years of careful study and scholarly research are well shown by the breadth of the field from which he takes his material, as well as by the balanced and judicious quality of his conclusions.

There is little pointless abstract reasoning, unconnected with concrete problems. There is no chapter on value, with the customary hair-splitting about margins and abstract value. On the contrary, supply and demand are briefly but clearly discussed in connection with certain specific problems, including those of wages and interest. It seems to have been the purpose of the writer to bring up no abstract principles that he could not clothe with some meaning by the use of illustrative material. One result of this is that the book is concrete and interesting; and it will doubtless be read even by people who do not have to read it. The style is clear and graphic, as would be expected.

The social point of view is maintained throughout. There are no extended descriptions of bank statements, of business organization and finance, or of other questions in business economics; while on the other hand a surprising number of questions of social significance are brought up for discussion. The conclusions on these questions are marked by caution and shrewd common sense.

Although this book is not intended primarily for use as a text, it should be used widely in colleges, and perhaps to some extent even in high schools. For students in business administration it seems to the reviewer to be one of the best elementary texts available. It treats only briefly the questions in business economics which such students must take up in later courses, and thus avoids some of the duplication that most textbooks involve. Furthermore, most students in business administration need an early exposure to the social point of view, and *Economics for Everyman* should give this well. In some ways, even the small size of the book might prove an advantage, because it would permit a wide use of collateral readings.

In expecting satisfactory use of this book as a text, the reviewer wishes to distinguish carefully between texts that are merely popular and teachable, and those which are really instructive. Some texts seem to be fairly popular largely because they cover in black type or in italics some of the "main points," definitions, laws, and "fundamental principles," which the students can learn—by rote or otherwise—and thus get the "fundamentals" of the science. Freshmen and sophomores are in no position to know that a fair share of these definitions and laws and principles they will never see or use or think of again, and so they are happy. Professor Le Rossignol's little book will not be popular in this way, for its dry bone content is not great, and its "dressing weight" should be high.

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