

CHILD LABOR.

Benztown Bard, in New York Call.

You going to put that boy to work,
That little bit of a kid,
Whose heart is out where the daisies are
In the dew and the grasses hid?
Going to put that boy to work,
Whose soul is way out there,
Dreaming of meadows and streams and bridge,
And the joy of the summer air?

You going to put that boy to work
Who is old enough, you say,
To be out helping you get along
With his little pittance of pay?
You going to put that boy to work
Who belongs to God awhile,
Out in the green of the boyhood sheen
Where the hills and the meadows smile?

May be your business, and that I'm blind,
Or a fool to be butting in,
But putting a kid like that to work
Is an economic sin;
Stunting and putting him back so long
From the glory he should know
In the good green spell of the wood and dell
Where a kid like him should grow.

You going to put that boy to work
Because he can help you bear
The burden of grocer and clothes and rent,
And he ought to be doing his share?
You going to put that boy to work,
That little kid whose eyes
And heart and soul are hankering for
The blue of the summer skies?

You going to chain him in a mill,
Who all day longs and longs
For the playtime life on the good green hill
And the cheer of the robins' songs?
You going to put him in prison, eh,
That he'll never get out again—
For the dreams, the dreams, of the open day
Can never come back to men!

BOOKS

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Reducing the Cost of Living. By Scott Nearing, Ph. D. Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania. Published by George W. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia. 1914. Price, \$1.25 net.

To those not confronted with the problem of how to get an income of some kind the most pressing problem is undoubtedly how to make the income satisfy as many desires as possible. That this has become of late years a more and more knotty problem is not an item of news. What will solve the problem is also a puzzle—to most of our public men at least. But these will find in

Professor Nearing's book a sound discussion that leads to location of the cause of the high cost of living and to location of a remedy.

Professor Nearing begins by making clear that the problem is one for the party in power to solve and that failure to solve it will involve loss of popular confidence. To this may be added that such loss will be deserved. A section of the book is devoted to discussion of what constitutes a living, and then the author proceeds with his search for the cause of the increasing cost. He takes up the current explanations, looking first into the accusation brought against the increased production of gold as the culprit, and finds that, at most it is but an unimportant accomplice. He finds the increased production of gold largely offset by increased population, increased volume of business and increased production of other commodities. Then also there has been an increase in the number of gold standard currency countries.

He next examines the charge against the trusts and comes to the conclusion that "obviously there is little connection between the trusts and rising prices." He makes clear, however, that this does not disprove the charge that some trusts have made exorbitant profits. We are left to infer, though he does not make such a statement, that having previously taken all that the traffic will bear, it would be an unbusinesslike procedure for these trusts to increase prices.

Taking up next the claim that the blame lies in increased cost of raw materials his search begins to show results. He presents figures concerning many different kinds of materials, some of which seem to confirm the charge and others to disprove. At first glance the showing is confusing, but Professor Nearing soon dispels the confusion. He shows that while there has been no marked and general increase in the cost of all raw materials, such increase is noticeable in raw materials derived directly from the land. Here appears a clue which he follows further. He finds a startling increase in land values for the past twenty years, and that the increase applies alike to timber lands, agricultural lands and city lands.

But there still remains the claim to be investigated that increase in wages may have something to do with the problem. The author finds that there has been such an increase. Since 1890 there has been, he finds, an increase of 40 per cent in price of farm labor, from 20 to 33⅓ per cent in price of railroad labor, but this does not include common labor, (presumably section hands, etc.), "for which the wage increase has been very slight." A somewhat similar result is shown, or rather, indicated, in manufacturing industries. But even these increases, he finds, have followed rather than preceded the rise in living costs. As to increased efficiency which may have accompanied increased wages statistics at hand fail to give information.

In the case against increased wages, on the charge of responsibility for the high cost of living Professor Nearing's evidence would seem to justify a Scotch verdict, if not an outright acquittal.

Facing the question of a remedy Professor Nearing suggests as means that will be helpful or palliative, simplification of desires, co-operative marketing, vocational training and similar policies capable of being put in force by individuals without government aid. He suggests furthermore an international agreement to enable issue of fiat money. But all of these he recognizes as "long distance views" while the American demands "be quick about it." So control of monopoly is the immediate remedy. Monopoly power must be taken from individuals and lodged in society, he finds. The sources of monopoly power he locates in land ownership, franchises, patents, industrial monopoly and credit monopoly. The greatest of these, however, he recognizes in land monopoly and he finds that "land taxation is the most pressing of all reforms for the reduction of monopoly power." He discusses also income and inheritance taxes. His contention is that taxation should be directed against monopoly profits, and he finds that in the case of income taxes such a consideration does not enter. He considers inheritance taxes differently, however, and imparts the impression that he favors a high progressive inheritance tax after provision has been made for widows and orphans.

Statistics are presented bearing on various phases of the discussion. These are interesting and instructive. For the busy reader the author has done the valuable favor of presenting in his introduction a synopsis of the argument of each chapter. This so far from discouraging, giving to the whole book the thorough study it so well deserves, will probably serve to stimulate interest in even the most indolent. Professor Nearing's book is a valuable contribution to economic study.

S. D.

PERIODICALS

Cleveland Teachers.

In Cleveland the school teachers and the Board of Education have been since May struggling in and out of court over the right of teachers to organize and to affiliate their union with the Federation of Labor without prejudice to their positions. Eleven leaders in the teachers' club were this autumn not re-appointed. "The American Teacher" (129 Lafayette St., New York) for September prints a history of the contention since its beginning last winter.

A. L. G.



A Legal Journal for the Laity.

The Women Lawyers' Journal (New York City) enters this month upon its fourth year, deprived of

its very able and conscientious editor, Mrs. Eugenia M. Raye-Smith. It is to be hoped that her successors will carry on her fine work. Besides general alertness and its careful essays on special topics, there is one feature which the non-legal reader of the journal would greatly miss—the paragraph reports in non-technical language of judicial decisions and legislative acts in the different sections of the country. Those in this number, for instance, are of especial interest. The Supreme court of Wisconsin has upheld the Eugenics law of that State. The Sterilization law of Iowa—as of some other States—thanks to some one's honest wisdom, has been declared unconstitutional. The Washington slums bill, "in which Mrs. Wilson was so intensely interested, provided for the abolishment of the alleys within the next ten years and the creation of minor streets. The bill that was rushed through merely puts an end to the use of the alleys for living purposes, without providing for the acquirement of property and cutting of minor streets to take the place of the alleys."

A. L. G.



A reporter on a Kansas City paper was among those of a relief train that was being rushed to the scene of a railway wreck in Missouri. About the first victim the Kansas City reporter saw was a man sitting in the road with his back to a fence. He had a black eye, his face was somewhat scratched, and his clothes were badly torn—but he was entirely calm.

The reporter jumped to the side of the man against the fence. "How many hurt?" he asked of the prostrate one.

"Haven't heard of anybody being hurt," said the battered person.

"What was the cause of the wreck?"

"Wreck? Haven't heard of any wreck."

"You haven't heard of any wreck? Who are you, anyhow?"

"Well, young man, I don't know that that's any of your business, but I am the claim agent of this road."—Harper's Magazine.



"Liza," expostulated a coal heaver, "don't I always tell you I won't 'ave the kids bringin' in the coal from the shed in my best 'at?"

"Oh, just 'ave sense," replied his wife. "You've spoiled the shape of that 'at already, and what can a little hextra coal dust do to 'arm yer 'at?"

"You don't see the point," protested the husband with dignity. "I only wears that 'at in the hevenin's; and if while I'm hout I takes it orf my 'ead it leaves a bloomin' black band round my forehead. Wot's the consequence? Why, I gits accused of washin' my face with my 'at on, and it ain't nice, Liza! It ain't nice!"—Tit-Bits.



"No, Willie, dear," said mamma; "no more cakes tonight. Dont' you know you cannot sleep on a full stomach?"

"Well," replied Willie, "I can sleep on my back."—Sacred Heart Review.