

expenditure on official banquets. Again, they recognize that they benefit by many of the railways in time of famine; but they are by no means reconciled to the Government's policy in pledging the national credit to keep up the dividends of certain lines that seem to them more for the benefit of the promoters than of the community at large. The railways involve a loss of two millions a year, and the Famine Committee of 1898 declared that their further extension would be of no value as a precaution against famine. The greatest expense is, of course, involved in the maintenance of the existing military system, and all the more since England appears to regard the Indian army as a sort of reserve on which she draws when she requires aid in any part of the world. An army of a quarter of a million men naturally imposes an enormous additional burden on the resources of the people. It is generally admitted that the army of India is greater than is needed for internal security; in other words, it has an Imperial as well as a local value. This being so—the poverty of India apart—it seems fair that the Empire should pay for that portion of the force which is not needed for purely local purposes. It need scarcely be pointed out, too, that the squandering of millions in military adventures beyond the frontier, such as the Afghan Wars and the campaigns necessitated by the establishment of forts in distant positions—such as Chitral—provokes widespread indignation. And it is difficult to speak with due moderation of the decision of Lord Salisbury's Cabinet to throw the cost of the employment of Indian troops in the Sudan campaign of 1896 on the Indian taxpayer, despite the protest of the Viceroy, and in the teeth of the declaration of 1858 that Indian money should not be used for campaigns outside the country. The drain on the resources of the country would be bad enough if the money thus raised was spent in the country itself. But nearly a third of the total revenue is remitted to England in the form of Home Charges, dividends, pensions, etc., and part of the fifteen millions paid in salaries to European officials is sent as savings to Europe.

BOOKS

GREAT BRITAIN'S "COSTLY ABSURDITY."

British Aristocracy and the House of Lords. By Edward Carpenter. Published by A. C. Fifield, 44 Fleet St., E. C., London. 1908. Price, 6d. net.

"A foolish and somewhat vulgar anachronism," "a reactionary institution of such magnitude and dead weight as no other nation in the world can show," "a waste,"—with a few exceptions, of

course—"of dullness, commonplaceness and reaction," are a few of the author's names for the British aristocracy in this forward charge upon the Peers and their Parliament Chamber. Mr. Carpenter, however, believes more in the House than in the Lords. A Second Chamber is in his opinion "on the whole advisable," and he proceeds to "the practical question" of "how to remodel it with a view to rendering it . . . useful." He proposes three reforms: "(1). Life-peersages (the actual title a matter of little importance). (2). Adequate reasons of useful service to be given for each creation—on democratic grounds more or less scheduled and recognized. (3). Limitation of number of members."

The essay is a reprint from *The Albany Review* and naturally, being from Mr. Carpenter's pen, is concentrated food, well-spiced.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

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A CHRISTMAS SERMON.

What Does Christmas Really Mean? By John T. McCutcheon and Jenkin Lloyd Jones. Published by The Unity Publishing Co., Chicago. Price, 50 cents.

Sweet, simple and clear, avoiding all controversies and non-essentials, the life-story of the Christ in word and deed and influence, is told by a mother to her eager little boy. The brief twenty pages of the book are attractively bound and printed and with McCutcheon's drawing and its text are a dainty medium for the spirit within.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Report of the Proceedings of the International Free Trade Congress, London, August, 1908. Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Lord Welby, G. C. B.; Treasurer, Russell Rea, Esq., M. P.; Secretary, J. A. Murray Macdonald, Esq., M. P. Full official report of the proceedings, with complete text of all speeches and papers at the Congress, together with reports of speeches at the Cobden Club dinner. Cloth bound. Published by the Cobden Club, Caxton House, Westminster, London, S. W., England. Price, 5s. net—\$1.25 net.

PERIODICALS

The Socialist Review (London) contains in the October number two articles of exceptional merit, "The Remedy for Unemployment," by Joseph Fels and John Orr, and "Who Pays the Rates," by Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P. Unemployment is a matter of interest to most of us at all times, but just at present outsiders are giving it attention, much after the manner of the darky's mule, who, if knocked down more than seven times in one day, dimly realized a change from "established usage." In the first of