THE MARCH OF CIVILISATION.
REVIEW.

The Tribunal of the Terror. By S. Lenotre. (Heinemann. 10s. net.)

This book is principally devoted to a biography of Fouquier-Tinville, the Public Prosecutor who ran the Terror, and was the chief agitator on the island of which the convention sought to maintain its power. Like so many tyrants, Fouquier-Tinville was a loving husband and father. He writes to “Ma bonne amie, adieu, a thousand times adieu, and to the few friends whom we still have, and especially to the servants. Embrace our children and your aunt for me. Be a mother to my children, whom I exhort to be good and listen to you.”

The many topographical and other details which M. Lenotre gives are of small interest to the general reader. The book is overloaded with irrelevant footnotes, and the style is ponderous. We have a suspicion that in time of revolution M. Lenotre would be out calling for somebody or other’s blood—where, we take it, would be merely a question of local conditions. Read his sketches of the trials of Marie Antoinette, of Corday, of Marat. The last is made ridiculous, the two others to verge on the tragic. We doubt whether M. Lenotre has realized that all governing persons seek to maintain themselves in power by the use of force. Oh, of course, always for the loftiest of motives.

Scientific Nutrition Simplified. By Goodwin Brown, M.D. (Heinemann. 2s. 6d. each.)

We list the names of most of the Simple Life Series. They may be summed up as capital books, full of sound commonsense, written by medical men, who know what they are talking about. As to their scope, no more need be said than that the first, “Scientific Nutrition,” is an interesting account of the natural principles of nutrition advanced by Mr. Horace Fletcher, Professor Russell, H. Chittenden, Professor Irving Fisher, and other investigators. Mr. Brown has derived much benefit from the practical application of these principles, and there is no reason why others should not follow his example. In any case, here are the facts set out in chapters on discoveries, principles, compositions, requirements, etc., for simple-lifers who want them.

The second, “Self-Help,” contains a deal of information about those nervous disorders, especially agony of the nerves, or neurasthenia—consequent on civilisation’s want of them. Compositions, requirements, etc., for simple-lifers who these principles, and there is no reason why others should not follow his example. In any case, here are the facts set out in chapters on discoveries, principles, compositions, requirements, etc., for simple-lifers who want them.

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Wedged. By C. B. Wheeler. (Gay and Hancock. 2s. 6d.)

It was Bacon who devised a scheme whereby it is possible to strike a balance of one’s daily thoughts and actions, and to discover whether the balance is on the right side. The author of this volume has apparently written his essays—many of which have appeared in print—to discover whether his mental and moral balance is on the right side. From what we have read of his book we say decidedly it is. Dealing with “Progress,” for instance, he points out that its real object is to make the sit on the right of the血糖. The majority of people are utterly indifferent as to what it is that is taking place in their midst. Their minds are so many stagnant pools.

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Primer of Statistics. By W. Palin Elderton and Ethel M. Elderton. (Black. is. 1d. net.)

Every Socialist spends half his time in examining figures; if not his own, then somebody else's. It is well, therefore, thoroughly to understand the handling of the statistics their zeal leads them to indulge in. We can cordially recommend this primer to all those who want to understand the modern system of statistics; it gives in clear language an account of the methods employed and the jargon used by statisticians without requiring any mathematical training. When the science of statistics has been mastered it is easy to see how fallacious are all the views expressed by the statisticians themselves. The conclusion of this book is: "If the reader wishes to make any investigation for himself he must be satisfied that the material has been collected at random from the general population of the thing investigated, and has been examined without personal bias."

This good advice has never been taken at the Eugenics Laboratory, where Miss Elderton holds a research scholarship, and all the results obtained at that laboratory are absolutely valueless in consequence. However, it is now so well endowed that we suppose nothing else matters.

Golden Aphrodite. By Winifred Crispe. (S. Paul and Co. 6s.)

This is surely the most naive of novelists. As a preface to each of her chapters she quotes one or other of the great masters of literature. The effect is thus: "No longer in robes of purple recline, Aphrodite. Wake from thy sleep, sad Queen, Black-stoled rain blows on thy bosom.—BION."

At ten o'clock the next morning Ladybird, still in bed, thus: "He sang no song of war or tears, But piped of Pan and cowherds. And stole the heart of Aphrodite.—THEOCRITUS."

Wake from thy sleep, sad Queen, the end of transportation. It draws a careful picture of Australia as a convict colony, administered by Governor Macquarie, who seems to have been a lop-sided humanitarian, with a leaning towards men, but never towards women. The composition and administration of the colony of New South Wales was, however, quite different. The mainland was peopled by convicts, in whose hands were the land, labour, and commerce; while the high seas were overflowing with mutineers, wholesale prostitution, outrages on women convicts by officers and crews, and so forth. The continent was under administrators whose two objects were: "One, to rid England once for all of her delinquent population; the other, to make the colony self-supporting." A chapter of special interest just now is the historical account of land distribution and ownership. The author in her concluding remarks points with surprise to the disappearance of all traces of the old criminal element in South Australia, and says, for this reason, "sociologically the history of New South Wales must remain for the present our complete problem."

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The Conquest of Christina. By Elsie T. Oxenham. (Collins. 3s. 6d.)

The Conquest of Australia. By H. R. Jordan. (Williams and Norgate. 5s.)

Though Mr. Jordan's sympathetic biography of Pascal is not a very distinguished piece of work, it has one or two good points. In the first place, it traces simply and clearly the life story of the brilliant Frenchman. It tells us, in effect, the conditions of his birth, of his mathematical outfit—as wonderful in its way as the logical one of J. S. Mill—affords us a glimpse of his unaided mastery of Euclid's propositions, his concern with other sections, and the sort of devily, and his relations with Descartes and Torricelli. It also reveals Pascal's fluctuating health, his renunciation of science for religion, and his final retirement to Port Royal, where he produced his famous letters in defence of the Jansenists. In the second place, it gives an introduction to Pascal's religious wobbling due to his fluctuating health. Pascal's accession recalls to some extent the case of C. J. Romanes, who, after appearing for years as an evolutionary scientist, died in the Church, and, moreover, left behind him a book recalling his scientific beliefs. Romanes' conversion, like
THE NEW AGE SUPPLEMENT.

that of Pascal's, was due to failing health. Mr. Jordan's book concludes with a long analysis of the fragmentary "Thoughts," which Pascal intended to form a key to the problem of the origin and destiny of man. This analysis would have been much more intelligible if Mr. Jordan had made two or three first propositions laid down by Pascal, and had maintained throughout their just balance of good and evil. And the many long quotations in French will not delight those readers whose French education has been neglected.

A Beau Sabreur. By W. H. R. Trowbridge. (Unwin. 15s.)

If we found it possible to praise much in Mr. Trowbridge's last volume, we find it equally possible to blame much in his present one. There is so little real historical value attaching to Marshal Saxe that we are hardly worth exhuming. His claim to serious consideration would seem to rest on his unrealised ambition, his generalship, and his love affairs. The first led him to aspire to a Russian throne in the air, where it remained for him; the second caused him to claim the victory of Fontenoy which really belonged to the Irish Brigade—as Mr. Trowbridge doubtless knows but fails to say; the third included his affair with Adrienne Lecouvreur, a character immortalised by Voltaire and Bernhardt. In fact his doings would have made the most interesting of romantic plays for the London stage. Perhaps Mr. Trowbridge has recognised this, for he has avoided giving us a brain-racking historical work, offering us instead a sort of cape and sword romance. But to continue on Mr. Crawley's lines—of all human thought, he has the soul of the thing. The idea of the soul its origin and development is thus in great measure to be open to any Government. You could pay £130 for foreign granite or you could pay £1 for British granite. This would lead to paying more for building materials, etc. "The effect of this all round would, in my opinion, be disastrous upon the consumer." Tariff Reformer replies: By purchasing foreign granite you fail to give employment to some British workmen. The £1 you have saved will have to be spent upon the material in its 'raw state,' and if a consequent deterioration of character, etc. Our readers need not be informed that both arguments are fallacious; we have been in existence long enough for them to supply the right argument. Dr. Macnamara favours labour exchanges, compulsory unemployment insurance, and "advocates a revival of the apprenticeship system on lines applicable to present-day needs." There is no evidence that he knows much about these schemes. We hope he is studying the Minority Report on the Poor Law.

The Political Situation. Letters to a Working Man. By Macnamara, M. P. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6d.)

These are of merely topical interest, and have no permanent value. We are not interested in the controversy between the Free Trader like Dr. Macnamara and the mere Tariff Reformer like Mr. Chamberlain. We really do not care whether the Unionist Government bought foreign granite as well as the Liberal Government. But Mr. Crawley does not fully thresh the question out. "Two policies seem to be open to any Government. You could pay £100 for foreign granite or you could pay £1 for British granite." This would lead to paying more for building materials, etc. "The effect of this all round would, in my opinion, be disastrous upon the consumer." Tariff Reformer replies: By purchasing foreign granite you fail to give employment to some British workmen. The £1 you have saved will have to be spent upon the material in its 'raw state,' and if a consequent deterioration of character, etc. Our readers need not be informed that both arguments are fallacious; we have been in existence long enough for them to supply the right argument. Dr. Macnamara favours labour exchanges, compulsory unemployment insurance, and "advocates a revival of the apprenticeship system on lines applicable to present-day needs." There is no evidence that he knows much about these schemes. We hope he is studying the Minority Report on the Poor Law.

Wayside Wisdom. By E. M. Martin. (Longmans. 5s.)

On the cover of this book of reprinted essays is the figure of a pilgrim. In one hand he holds a staff; in the other a script. He is reading as he goes. We do not care if this illustration was taken from any real source. "Wayside Wisdom" has been gathered rather from books than from the wayside. It comes from the philosopher's chair, and not from any real contact with the world. Thus, in the case of "Poverty," we are told that in the advantages are youthfulness of mind, absence of all exacting sense of duty, and sincerity of friendship. This may be reasonable wisdom in the abstract, but in the concrete it has no meaning. It is simply the myths of Plato. The essays touch many points of interest to those who are interested in philosophy. Some of the subjects are: "Old Superstitions," "The Smoke of Cities," "The Lost Art of Memory," "On Being in Love," and "The Vanity of Learning." The author writes with a strong literary force and with apparent ease, and is always interesting when dealing with remembrances, and especially certain tender recollections from a fund of knowledge as a connecting background for philosophic excursions.

An Island Heroine. By Bessie Marchant. (Collins. 5s.)

A very good story. The idea of a young Manchester man off with his pretty sister and a little brother in a cattle-boat for Patagonia sounded tedious at first, but the tale is full of good information, and is lively. Miss Marchant discloses an unusual acquaintance with the practical side of foreign life, and the adventures of Rose, the Island Heroine, are by no means unlikely in their development.