

Light on Industrial Relations

PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY FOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. Compiled by Lionel D. Edie. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company. \$2.40.

THE material available in print on the subject of industrial relations is unsatisfactory. The principal reason would seem to be that the subject is so controversial that almost everything written about it is consciously or unconsciously biased. The subject involves the very basis of our present social and economic life, and it is very difficult either for the worker or for the executive to think about it dispassionately.

It is particularly useful, therefore, to have a selection of competent material compiled by an authority who may be assumed to be reasonably free from prejudice. Mr. Edie has done systematically what almost every thoughtful executive is doing in a haphazard way, namely, gathering together significant comments on industrial principles from sources essentially temporary in character, such as magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and public speeches.

The book consists of 392 pages, and includes approximately 100 selections, grouped under various headings, such as "The Psychological Basis of Industrial Relations," "Executive Management and the Mind of the Worker," "Labor Traits and Crowd Behavior," "The Basis of Employee Representation," "Factors in Industrial Education," "Fatigue Control and Industrial Efficiency."

The book also contains a careful bibliography, covering twelve pages, subdivided to correspond with the chapter headings of the book. A compilation of this kind is in its nature rather hard to read, and yet perhaps executives and others interested in the future of industry can study a book like this with more profit than they would be likely to derive from a more pretentious volume the product of a single author. The answer to the industrial problem will not be evolved by a single mind, but is certain to be the product of group thinking over a period.

G. E.