

*A Year in a Coal Mine.* By JOSEPH HUSBAND. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. 171.)

Mr. Husband presents a direct and uncolored record of his personal experiences and observations as an unskilled miner. The experiences recorded are undertaken neither as an economic investigation nor as a journalistic adventure. The writer tells his story so apparently oblivious to the economic problems suggested as to forbid suspicion of bias, either sentimental or doctrinal.

The opening paragraph adequately explains the motives of the author in sentencing himself to a year's hard labor underground; and likewise evidences the representative character of his field of observation:

"Ten days after my graduation from Harvard I took my place as an unskilled workman in one of the largest of the great soft-coal mines that lie in the Middle West. It was with no thought of writing my experiences that I chose my occupation, but with the intention of learning by actual work the 'operating end' of the great industry, in the hope that such practical knowledge as I should acquire would fit me to follow the business successfully. That this mine was operated in direct opposition to the local organization of union labor and had won considerable notoriety by successfully mining coal in spite of the most active hostility, gave an added interest to the work. The physical conditions of the mine were the most perfect that modern engineering has devised: the 'workings' were entirely electrified; the latest inventions in coal-mining machinery were everywhere employed, and every precaution for the safety of the men was followed beyond the letter of the law."

Such publications add a highly desirable element to the literature of inductive economics; and Mr. Husband has rendered a signal service in thus characterizing the extraordinary industrial hazards and contingent social liabilities of coal production under the most favorable conditions.

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*Législation Ouvrière.* By E. COHENDY and M. GRIGAUT. (Paris: Ch. Delagrave. 1910. Pp. 170. 2.50 fr.)

Here is a most business-like statement, without prologue or epi-

logue, of French legislation touching the welfare of wage-workers. The directness and brevity, and yet withal the comprehensiveness of the volume, are doubtless due to the apparent joint qualifications of the authors for the task. One is a professor on the faculty of law at Lyon, the other is a professor in l'Ecole d'Arts et Métiers at Châlons-sur-Marne.

The volume is entirely occupied with the present statute law of France on the subject of labor. Space does not permit a description of the contents beyond the statement that the book covers concisely every feature of the labor law and is almost entirely descriptive rather than historical or controversial. It is essentially a handbook of the same type as Stimson's, except that this volume—as would be far less necessary under the continental system—contains nothing of the judicial construction of the law. It is a book that will be indispensable to the student of labor legislation.

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