

Virchow points out that part of this ancient culture is probably due to Phœnician influence (*Zeitschr. für Ethnologie*, 1887, No. v.).

PREHISTORIC SKATING. — As is well known, the art of skating is a prehistoric one. In many parts of Europe bones of domesticated animals have been found which had been used as skates or as runners of small sledges. It is of considerable interest to learn that similar implements are found still in use in several parts of northern Germany. In the *Journal of the Berlin Ethnological Society*, sledges are described which consist of a board resting on the bones of a horse. But, besides this, skates are used the runners of which consist of the lower jaw of cattle, the curvature of the lower side serving admirably the object of the skate.

#### BOOK — REVIEWS.

*The Early History of the English Woollen Industry.* By W. J. ASHLEY, M.A. Baltimore, American Economic Association.

"I CANNOT but be sensible," says the author, "of the honor which the American Economic Association has done me by permitting me to join in their work." The members of the association might say in reply, that they are sensible of the honor which Mr. Ashley has done them in consenting to take part in their work. The co-operation of English and American students in economics is most encouraging; at least, we on this side of the water appreciate very highly such papers as the one which forms the subject of this notice, or as lately appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* from the pen of Professor Foxwell of Cambridge.

There are two points of interest in the preface to this monograph. In the first place, Mr. Ashley explains, very properly we think, the revival of economic studies in the United States. This country, he says, "exhibits the forces of competition and capital working on a larger scale than elsewhere, and in a freer field, uncrossed by any of the influences of decaying feudalism." England is no longer "the classic land of capitalistic production," as Karl Marx once called her: that honor now belongs to the United States. It is, then, chiefly because economic questions have lately come to be of such importance, that Americans are studying them with earnestness; and it is because the field offered for their solution is comparatively free that European peoples regard that study with peculiar interest. But, in the second place, our author cautions American students against being too greatly influenced by the teachings of German universities. "No observer of German thought," he says, "can fail to see, that, though most vigorous within its range, its range is exceedingly narrow. German writers seldom realize the atmosphere of individual initiative in which English and American thought moves." And he adds, "American teachers will be compelled, by the traditions of their country, the needs of their pupils, and the criticisms of their opponents, to give due weight to the forces of competition and to the arguments of more recent English economists." This view is certainly correct. There is a radical difference between the German and the American. Whether we consider political or industrial affairs, the closer we observe, the more strongly do differences impress themselves upon our minds. German thought does not fit American affairs. The only lesson of abiding importance brought from the universities on the continent pertains to methods of investigation.

Turning now to the monograph itself, we find it to be an eminently satisfactory sketch of the history of the English woollen industry from earliest times to the period of the great inventions. The peculiar interest in such a sketch lies in the fact that the history of the woollen industry fairly represents the development of all industries. Whether we consider the relation of artisans to early local government, or the internal organization of trades, or the social and political influence of changed methods of doing work, we find a true picture in the history of the woollen industry. The author divides his sketch into four parts. He first treats of the establishment of the guild system; second, of the education of the English workman by the importation of foreign skilled workers; third, of the rise of the merchant class; and, fourth, of the growth of the domestic system. For us in this country the part which treats of the separation of the merchant class from the main body of workers is perhaps the most instructive. Americans pride themselves

on being cosmopolitan, and it is true that their love of travel makes them familiar with the existing habits and customs of many peoples; but when it comes to history, their minds are essentially provincial. They are prone to regard the nineteenth century, out of which their minds have never travelled, as the natural and therefore the permanent order of society. Their conservatism is, on this account, unreasonably strong. It would be a good thing if every business-man could be brought to see that there once existed a successful industrial society, in which a separate class of traders was not known. They then might regard with less suspicion certain tendencies in modern times looking towards further industrial changes.

But professed students of history, as well as business-men, will find in this monograph much instruction. It is a common error to say that machinery and steam-power are responsible for the creation of a clearly defined laboring-class. Mr. Ashley shows that such an assumption is not correct. His sketch closes with the establishment of the 'domestic system' of industry, but the liberties and rights then exercised were very nearly the same as those which laborers now enjoy. It needed only the great inventions to fully establish the 'factory system' as we now know it, and to bring about the era of great industries. Failure to recognize that the social position of the workman was quite the same before and after 1760 is responsible for many misinterpretations of industrial history.

In closing we can only say that American students are always grateful for reliable information on English industrial history. They feel that the society with which they deal is as much the result of English life during the middle ages as is English society itself. But this they cannot study at first-hand, because of paucity of material, and on that account they read with eagerness all that English scholars may write upon the subject. Mr. Ashley, then, has the thanks of American students for his excellent monograph on the English woollen industry.

H. C. ADAMS.

*A Plea for the Training of the Hand.* By D. C. GILMAN, LL.D.

*Manual Training and the Public School.* By H. H. BELFIELD, Ph.D. New York, Industrial Education Association. 8°.

*Primary Methods.* By W. N. HAILMANN, A.M. New York, Barnes. 12°.

*Industrial Instruction.* By ROBERT SEIDEL. Tr. by Margaret K. Smith. Boston, Heath. 12°.

*The Manual-Training School.* By C. M. WOODWARD, Ph.D. Boston, Heath. 8°.

EACH one of these books bears evidence in its own way to the educational *Zeitgeist*. Each one, had it appeared ten years ago, would have appealed to perhaps a few score readers: it is safe to say that at this time they will be read by thousands. Educational thought and educational practice are in motion. In all parts of the country and in all grades of schools the signs of progress are seen and its effects are felt. The dominant trait of this progress is a demand for reality in education, for practicality in the widest and best sense of the word. Teach the child to know not merely words, but things, objects; teach him not merely to know, but to use and apply what he knows. Teach him literature, teach him arithmetic, teach him geography, and so on, but also teach him something about the busy, active life of which he is so soon to form a part. Teach him not only to perceive and to remember, but to compare, to judge, to execute, to manage. This, if its opponents did but know it, is the philosophy of manual training; and because this philosophy is so certain and so sound, the manual-training movement is carrying every thing before it. The best educational thought of the country is enlisted in its service; and its advocates are making rapid and successful progress, while its handful of vociferous opponents are asserting that it is useless, crude, and destructive of the school. The success of manual training, and the thought and inquiry it has aroused, call for a literature. All of the books whose titles are given above are in answer to this call.

The first is a handsomely printed pamphlet, the first of a permanent series of educational monographs to be issued under the editorship of the president of the Industrial Education Association of