

scientific study of the institutions of the primitive peoples of India to their government and to their advancement in the long run. It may be that it is not possible, for example, in Bombay and the Central Provinces, to do more than suggest protective measures for something like ten per cent only of the aboriginal population. Yet would it really have thrown an intolerable burden on the Governor of either province to have charged him with the personal responsibility of deciding on the extent to which acts of the legislature were to apply to each and every one of the areas which their effective protection would have demanded? The knowledge and experience of the local officer in charge of the district would have been at his disposal.

It is in this connexion that regret may most fittingly be expressed that a suggestion, made in the House of Commons and forwarded by the Secretary of State for the consideration of the

Governments, has not proved acceptable to more than one or two and has not been carried further by the Government of India. This suggestion was that the Governor, in carrying out his discretionary powers in the matter of the application of legislative action to the partially excluded areas, should have the assistance of a special officer, well acquainted with the peoples affected, to assist him in arriving at a decision. The principle of this suggestion is susceptible of wide extension. It is possible that many of the undoubted difficulties of the situation, especially where the method of exclusion would involve a number of relatively small 'islands' in the administrative tract, would vanish, if the aborigines and other primitive tribes were entrusted, under the Governor, to a scientifically trained and experienced officer in each Province, who would act as their 'protector', as has been done in other parts of the Empire where a similar problem has arisen.

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## Science and Economics in Human Welfare

### Health and Human Progress:

*an Essay in Sociological Medicine.* By René Sand. Translated from the Author's revised French text by Dr. C. F. Marshall. Pp. x+278. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS review of social progress in the principal countries of the world should be studied by those interested in the application of science and economics to human welfare. Dr. Sand quotes impressive statistics from authoritative sources in support of the argument that poverty is the main limiting factor for human progress. Housing, nutrition, medical care and leisure vary with income, and these are the predominant factors determining health, physique and even intelligence. "At all ages of life, at all times and in all countries, physical and intellectual development follow, on the whole, the curve of social opportunity. Descending successively from the independent class to the middle class, the skilled workers and to the labourers, we find that disease and death gather an increasing harvest of human lives."

The influence of heredity is discussed. It is pointed out that hereditary factors cannot be easily separated from environmental factors. Until the environment of the different classes is approximately similar, it would be impossible to assess the part which heredity plays in the

biological differences which distinguish the social strata of society from each other. Proof of the overwhelming influence of environment is given in evidence showing that, as the standard of living of the poorest classes rises, there is a reduction of disease, an increase in the average length of life and an improvement in intelligence.

The argument leads one to the inevitable conclusion that human life can be bought. Man is the master of his destiny. "Every country fixes for itself, within certain limits, its own death rate." In the last hundred years there has been a remarkable advance, but conditions are still deplorable for large sections of the community. Even in the United States, the richest country in the world, the income of sixty per cent of the total number of families is insufficient to supply the basic necessities.

Dr. Sand takes the view that social conditions should take priority over the financial balance sheet. "Ill-nourished or neglected children, deserted women, men atrophied by unemployment and lives sacrificed" are worse for the State than a deficit in the Budget. He looks forward to the time when progress will be measured by human economics and not by the economics of money. We shall then escape from the present anomalous position in which poverty, with its accompanying debasement and loss of human life, still reigns in the midst of infinite potential wealth. J. B. O.