mention of the outstanding work of Vening Neiesz. The nickel ore of the Sudbury intrusion is still given as an example of magmatic segregation, despite the fact that it is now known to be of later introduction (p. 423). The selected bibliographies with which most of the chapters are furnished require considerable revision. Some of the standard works to which reference is made have appeared in later editions than those cited.

Defects of the sort mentioned above make one hesitate to recommend the book as a whole for general reading, but so much of it is admirable that it should certainly be given a place in every college library. With further improvements on the lines indicated, a third edition, which should certainly be called for in due course, might well take first place among elementary text-books on physical geology.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL REFORM

Programme for Victory

A Collection of Essays prepared for the Fabian Society by Prof. Harold J. Laski, Harold Nicolson, Herbert Read, Prof. W. M. Macmillan, Ellen Wilkinson, G. D. H. Cole. Pp. vii+187. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1940.) 5s. net.

THE common element in these six lectures is the belief of all the authors that something called the 'old order' is gone for ever, and that the only issue of our time is the question what is to take its place. Broadly speaking, the old order was the world of unplanned production and distribution on one hand, and international anarchy on the other. All are convinced that planning has come to stay, and that the independent State, certainly the small independent State, has no future. What they are not so certain about is whether this planning will or will not be carried out at the expense of personal freedom; whether we shall plan for social equality or for the protection of privilege; and whether it is to be conquest or the voluntary coming together of peoples in free supra-national associations which is to put an end to the proud sovereignty of the nation-State. It is the choice between these alternatives that the authors are concerned to shape.

Beyond this the word 'programme' is something of a misnomer. For with one or two exceptions there are no very concrete proposals in these lectures. There are general principles, and there is a good deal of eloquence. Prof. Laski is the most definite. He does say explicitly that a programme of social reform must be put in hand while the War is on, if fine words about democracy are to carry conviction to our oppressed allies. He suggests that that programme should include the repeal of the Trade Disputes Act, the abolition of the household means test, better allowances to the sick, the injured and the aged, and an effort to rescue public education from the rack and ruin into which it has been allowed to dissolve.

Mr. Harold Nicolson on world government is by contrast studiously vague. He says that he has deliberately chosen this title in order to avoid getting embroiled in the prejudices associated with "League of Nations" or "Federal Union". This tactful avoidance of prejudice, however, results in his telling us nothing at all about the kind of world government that he envisages, except that it would be a "loose Federation" based upon the "free co-operation of all free peoples". What kind of powers this Federation is to have, how it is to be organized, over what geographical area its writ is to run—for answers to such precise questions as these the reader will turn to this distinguished diplomat in vain.

Perhaps the most fresh and stimulating of all the contributions is that in which Prof. Macmillan deals with the problem of the British Colonial Empire. The significant fact upon which this lays emphasis is not that the Colonial peoples have been shamefully exploited (although sometimes they have); but that they have so little to exploit. We did not reduce them from a state of paradisaical bliss to their present plight of disease and poverty. Their standards were wretched enough before ever the whites came interfering; and the great needs are, and always have been, money for development and for civilized services of all kinds.

In the remaining papers Mr. Herbert Read expresses fears lest a bureaucratic socialist State should stifle the voice of free artistic expression; Miss Ellen Wilkinson demands social justice; and Mr. Cole sums up with a moving plea for a liberal socialism which will combine the values of nineteenth century democracy with the techniques of twentieth century economics.

With the general attitude of these authors there will be widespread sympathy and agreement. But the book is not a programme. It merely gives an urgent stimulus to the demand that a programme consistent with this attitude should be quickly and precisely formulated. BARBARA WOOTTON.