forgotten Mikado's court at Kyoto. The reasons for the change are analysed carefully and in detail; the political characters of the time are admirably sketched. The foundations of the Tokugawa régime were already secure when in 1853 Commodore Perry's squadron arrived off the coasts of Japan. In 1858 Lord II of Hikone became Taio (Prime Minister), and a desperate attempt was made to stop the rot, to control the refractory clansmen, to make peace with the foreigners. The ten years which followed were among the most intense and adventurous in the history of any nation. There was a sudden effervescence of all the repressed passions and enthusiasms of an emotional and spirited people. Japan's risorgimento was like the eruption of one of her own volcanoes, or the sudden shock of an earthquake. The complacent medievalism of the Tokugawa era was shattered, and on its formidable ruins modern Japan has been built up in feverish haste.

But modern Japan cannot be understood without a knowledge of her past. Professor Murdoch's three noble volumes, the life-work of a remarkable man, are a classic in their way, and there is no other Japanese history which begins to compete with them. The two earlier volumes have been out of print for many years, but they are now reprinted by Messrs. Kegan Paul, so that the complete history is available henceforth in a convenient form up to the year 1868; from that date onward it can best be read in Professor W. W. McLaren's Political History of Japan during the Meiji Era, 1868-1912. These works will long remain unchallenged, for the historian of Japan requires very exceptional qualifications—of which exhaustible patience is not the least important. For the reader, Professor Murdoch provides a guide and a valuable background, but his style, though massive, is far from dull. Volume III is edited by the late Joseph Longford, former Vice-President of the Japan Society and himself a writer on Japanese history; it is prefaced by an interesting account of Professor Murdoch's life and character.

With Letter-press. 1926. (London: Sifton and Pradl.)

The above is the title printed outside the work—which consists of six large double pages (unnumbered, by the way) and five maps. It is therefore a little surprising to find that the title-page and page-headings inside describe it as "Singapore and Naval Geography"—which is perhaps not quite the same thing. As a matter of fact it is a mixture of both.

The substance of the letter-press is a paper read by Dr. Cornish to the Colonial Institute last year, in which he points out the great strategic importance of Singapore as a naval base—especially now that Hong Kong is no longer available—and the equally important fact that it will be some nine years before the two new docks there will be ready to hold our biggest ironclads. Expressing very sound views on the Washington Treaty and the areas covered by the French, American and Japanese fleets, he leads us on—despite one or two rather loose statements—by a process of exclusion to the final result, that the one great gap of a remediable character which exists in the strategical communications of the Empire is at the passages to the Indian Ocean between the East Indian islands; so that the claims of Singapore are paramount." In so doing he gives us some useful information about the Panama and Suez Canals and the dimensions of the Singapore base, and points out that the Dutch Navy will in consequence have probably to be doubled in size.

Combined with all this Dr. Cornish has evolved a practical system of dividing up the world (on paper), so as to make the future strategical aspersion of naval movements more understandable by the ordinary reader. He has illustrated by giving us, and explaining, four maps (on the Merchwit projection) of world-hemispheres, centre respectively on 20° E., 110° E., 160° W., and 70° W. longitude. A few places of importance mentioned in the text are not marked on the maps: but the general result is good—and clear.

EDWARD GLEICHEN.

Mathematical Investigations in the Theory of Value and Prices. By Professor Irving Fisher. 1925. (Yale University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. 8vo. xii + 126 pp. 4s. 6d. net.)

Professor Irving Fisher has given us a reprint of his important paper on value, first published in the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1892. It treats of the fundamental definitions and identities of economics, a firm grasp of which is essential to the comprehension of almost any economic theorising. Professor Fisher has since become famous as a master of lucid explanation; and a casual glance at this work, where a large measure of continuous literature is mixed in with the formulæ, might raise the hopes of an unmathematical reader. Professor Fisher has chosen in this case to illustrate his meaning by an elaborate mechanism of cisterns and levers, of which models have since actually been constructed in his American laboratory. This method of exposition may be exceedingly helpful to those well accustomed to the use of such instruments, but the lay reader will probably find his perplexities greatly increased. A purely analytic treatment, while more arduous at the outset, would probably have proved easier for him in the long run.

This treatise is embellished with a very thorough discussion of the economists' notion of Utility. Professor Fisher correctly holds that the writers of the school of Jevons did wrong to identify utility with pleasure and make it necessary for the economist to postulate that "all men act for pleasure." This proposition may or may not be true and raises interesting psychological problems, but should be and is irrelevant to economic analysis. But Professor Fisher, while protesting against the dragging in of these psychological irrelevances, makes the same mistake himself. He identifies utility with desirability and says that we must assume that "each individual acts as he desires." This either is untrue or involves the use of desire in a Pickwickian sense, and it embroils us in the disputes of psychologists, not to say of metaphysicians. All postulates of this type are objection in economics. This may be seen if we amend Professor Fisher's definition (p. 126) as follows: "The utility of A units of one commodity or service (a) is equal to the utility of B units of another (b), if the individual has no desire for does not choose (or, does not act favourably to) one to the exclusion of the other." Choose here refers not to a process antecedent to an act, but to the act itself.

Of great interest is Professor Fisher's conclusion that when the utility of many commodities is interdependent, it may be impossible to integrate utility at all. Integration is quite unnecessary, as the No. 5.—Vol. v.
The author observes, "if we seek only the causation of the objective facts of prices and commodity distribution." But sometimes our interest ranges beyond this, and we seek something more. We may be considering public interference to increase social welfare. We cannot consent to remain stultified without an instrument of analysis. We need not only to integrate, but to "compare one man's utility with another's." For these purposes, but for these only, we shall need to find a more subjective definition of utility.

This essay contains much that is stimulating, and we welcome its republication in a compendious form.

R. F. Harrod.

The World Court. By Antonio S. de Bustamente. 1925. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 8vo. xxv + 379 pp. 12s. 6d.)

This is an important account of the Permanent Court of International Justice written by one of the Judges, a distinguished Professor of the University of Havana. It contains an Introductory Word on "Looking at things internationally" by Mr. Conrad W. Bok, the Founder of the American Peace Award, under whose auspices the book has been translated from the Spanish by Elizabeth F. Reed and published. In a comparatively small compass Judge Bustamente has given an account of the historical antecedents of the Court under which he deals with the various projects of statesmen, publicists, and governments for the establishment of an international Court of Justice. The proceedings at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 are set forth and the result is stated to be that on the fundamental consideration that there should be a court all nations were in accord, but it remained to get them on to a common ground with the difficulties that have arisen in South West Africa. Such phrases as "the slaughter of May 1922," "the Bondelswart Massacre" are to be deprecated. Nor do I believe that for hundreds of years Gottetorts will point to the hill of Guruchas and say "that is where the white men shot us from the great white birds and slew men, women and children."

In this unfortunate affair the Mandates system is not to rest on any disproportionate continuation of such episodes. It must not be supposed that the Bondelswarts would not have had their advocates in the Union even if no Mandates Commission had existed. Nor do I think that she is quite fair in her account of the Rehoboth affair, when she asserts that it "seemed as though the Bondelswart massacre might be repeated." Even in Mandated territories the law must be maintained by force if necessary, and the new Rand was in fact unconstitutional and in open rebellion. But perhaps judgment in this matter should be deferred until the judicial commission has reported. Let us hope that Miss White will prove a false prophet when she says that "this is the beginning of what must be a long story." May we not hope that the force of public opinion will contribute to cut the story short? Sir Frederick Lugard, in his interesting foreword, sums up the position, when he says that "the sole compelling power and driving force which the Mandates Commission can exert is the force of the public opinion of the world." In the use of this power in the future in the same judicious way as it has been used in the past, lies the hope of the Mandates experiment being successful.

A. Pearce Higgins.


This is a pamphlet of 27 pages giving an outline of the work of the Permanent Court of International Justice for the year 1925. It also contains a short list of books and articles dealing with the same subject which appeared during that year.

A. P. H.

Mandates. By Freda White. 1926. (London: Jonathan Cape. 8vo. 156 pp. 3s. 6d. net.)

Miss White adopts the same arrangement of her almost equally abundant and varied material as Sir George Fiddes in his book on the Colonial Office, reviewed on page 250 of this issue. She opens with an account of the Mandates system, then gives a short description of each mandated territory, thus indicating the problems with which the Mandates Commission deals, and then ends with a chapter entitled "Dubias and Hopes." She uses her material very fairly, but allows her feelings rather to run away with her in dealing with the difficulties that have arisen in South West Africa. Such phrases as "the slaughter of May 1922," "the Bondelswart Massacre" are to be deprecated. Nor do I believe that for hundreds of years Gottetorts will point to the hill of Guruchas and say "that is where the white men shot us from the great white birds and slew men, women and children."

In this unfortunate affair the Mandatory was to blame. But the efficacy of the Mandates system is not to rest on any disproportionate continuation of such episodes. It must not be supposed that the Bondelswarts would not have had their advocates in the Union even if no Mandates Commission had existed. Nor do I think that she is quite fair in her account of the Rehoboth affair, when she asserts that it "seemed as though the Bondelswart massacre might be repeated." Even in Mandated territories the law must be maintained by force if necessary, and the new Rand was in fact unconstitutional and in open rebellion. But perhaps judgment in this matter should be deferred until the judicial commission has reported. Let us hope that Miss White will prove a false prophet when she says that "this is the beginning of what must be a long story." May we not hope that the force of public opinion will contribute to cut the story short? Sir Frederick Lugard, in his interesting foreword, sums up the position, when he says that "the sole compelling power and driving force which the Mandates Commission can exert is the force of the public opinion of the world." In the use of this power in the future in the same judicious way as it has been used in the past, lies the hope of the Mandates experiment being successful.

H. A. Wyndham.