that one man's utility can be compared to another's. Dr. Fisher, who has a just conception of the great gulf which separates economies from moral philosophy, regards comparisons between the pleasures of different individuals as "mysteries" (p. 90) which "do not belong here" (p. 87). At the same time he throws out some hints which will be valuable to the utilitarian.

"The statistician might begin with those utilities in which men are most alike—food utilities—and those disutilities in which they are most alike as disutilities of definite sorts of manual labour. By these standards he could measure and correct the money-standard, and if the utility curves for various classes of articles were constructed, he could make rough statistics of total utility, total disutility, gain, and utility-value which would have considerable meaning. Men are much alike in their digestion and fatigue. If a food or a labour standard is established, it can be easily applied to the utilities in regard to which men are unlike, as of clothes, houses, furniture, books, works of art, etc." (p. 87)

There are those who think that the principle of final utility is destined to have a more important use in socialistic politics than even in abstract Economics; that, when the regime of competition shall have passed away, the laws of utility will still be employed to regulate utilitarian distribution. Without forecasting a future so remote, we may at least predict to Dr. Fisher the degree of immortality which belongs to one who has deepened the foundations of the pure theory of Economics.


Referring for a general estimate of this new classical work to Mr. Price's appreciative review of the first edition in the first volume of the Economic Journal, we shall here confine ourselves to some of the passages which have been added in the third edition. They relate mostly to recent developments of financial theory and fiscal policy. Under the first head, "the theory of minimum sacrifice as the principle for distribution of the public burdens," the principles of local taxation, "the ever-recurring question of incidence," and other controversial topics are treated. Professor Bastable, referring to diversities of doctrine comprehended under the generic principles of sacrifice, concludes that "these complications in the employment of the sacrifice principle seem to justify adherence to the objective standard of ability,
especially as the practical application of the criterion of "least
sacrifice" is impossible." It is doubtless true that, in our author's
words, "the former is most naturally measured by some objective
standard, the latter refers primarily to the sentiments of the
people concerned, and is therefore rather subjective." Accord-
ingly, the phrase "ability" rather than "sacrifice" is appropriate
when a really objective criterion is consistently adopted. For
instance, a Government having to raise a certain amount might
distribute the burden of taxation solely on productional consid-
erations, seeking to minimise the loss of efficiency, the discouragement
to industry and enterprise, which the privations and obstructions
incident to taxation may occasion. By no means the worst sort
of government, if intelligent, we may say, in passing. But we
do not understand that Professor Bastable takes up a position
thus objective. He is not prepared to make abstraction of what
Mill calls with reference to the sacrifices theory "human wants and
feelings." He continually appeals to justice. He well says that
"an escape from the difficult questions that the problem of
justice must always present is a pleasing prospect, though un-
fortunately based on illusion." Professor Bastable, as it appears
to us, does not escape these difficult questions by the use of the
seemingly definite term "ability." There are those who think
that "justice" is not more, but less, determinate than "least
sacrifice." Equity in taxation is presumably not definable
without reference to "human wants and feelings."

Referring to local taxation Professor Bastable explains the
distinction between "onerous" and "beneficial" rates—which
serviceable terms, it is interesting to read, seem first to have been
The desiderated standard of distributive justice is apparently
not to be obtained from the contemplation of the English system
of local taxation. "There is an entire absence of equity in the
actual system of distribution, either as between localities or
between the several countries that make up the United Kingdom."
In supporting this conclusion Professor Bastable makes frequent
reference to the Memoranda on Classification and Incidence issued
by the Local Taxation Committee.

Their views on incidence also engage his attention. He does
not accept "the heroic measure"—proposed by Mr. Cannon—
"of discarding the term incidence altogether." Referring to
Lord Avebury's address to the Statistical Society on imperial and
local burdens, Professor Bastable defends with spirit the judgment
which he had before passed on the "diffusion theory" associated
with the name of Canard. Under the head of incidence the case
of a strict monopoly is said to be of sufficient importance to receive
some special notice. Professor Bastable justly observes that as
"in very few cases is a monopoly strictly so called to be found,"
"the theoretical conception of a pure monopoly is of little direct
service in dealing with the question of incidence." Accordingly,
he is not to be understood as attaching much importance to one
or two specimens which he gives of abstract reasoning about
this hypothetical case: e.g., "if a slight rise of price seriously
checks consumption, or in other words, if the demand is elastic
the monopolist suffers more than in the case of inelastic demand."

Among the recent developments of fiscal policy noticed in the
third edition are the new systems of succession duties introduced
into France in 1891 and extended in 1902, according to which the
duty on inheritance above 2,000,000 payable by relatives of
more remote degrees and strangers amounts to 20-5 per cent. The
scale of duties is pronounced by Professor Bastable "instructive
as showing the arbitrary way in which progressive taxation can
be applied." He also notices alterations of fiscal policy in Austria,
in the United States, and in Spain. He observes with misgiving
the changes which have supervened in our own country, the grave
problem for the future constituted by the growth of expenditure,
the indications of "a disposition on the part of the predominant
political party to depart from the financial principles which have
prevailed since 1800." Professor Bastable not only indicates a
danger, he has also given us the best means of averting it—sound
principles of Public Finance.

Encyclopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften. Band I.
Heft 6. Anwendungen der Wahrscheinlichkeitsrechnung auf
Heft 7. Anwendungen der Mathematik auf Nationalökonomie.
Von V. Pareto. 1903.

The German Encyclopædia of Mathematical Sciences has very
properly included among its constituent treatises two relating to
those branches of the human or moral sciences which require the
use of mathematics, namely, the more abstract portions of political
economy and statistics.

The scope and function of the mathematical method in political
economy are indicated by Professor Pareto with that persuasive
incisiveness which characterises his introduction to the subject in his
articles in the Giornale degli Economisti and subsequent writings,