

BOOK REVIEWS

The First Volume of the Marx-Engels Archive.

By A. Thalheimer.

The first volume of the Marx-Engels Archive, the journal of the Marx-Engels Institute in Moscow, edited by D. Riazanov (Marx-Engels Publishing Co. Ltd. Frankfurt on Main), deserves the attention of all who are interested in Marxism and in its history.

The volume contains 550 pages. The foreword by the Editor gives a full account of the tasks which the journal has set itself.

The first part comprises essays and articles relating to Marxism and its history. A. Deborin writes "Studies in the History of Dialectics. I. Kant and Dialectics". This series of studies is to be continued. The essay is, by its positive content, at the same time a criticism of Max Adler's and Vorländer's conceptions of the relations of Marxism to Kantism.

V. Volgin writes "On the Historical Position of St. Simon." The author gives a positive presentation from original sources and expounds the views of Cunow and Eckstein on St. Simonism.

The Editor, D. Riazanov, gives as the first part of his studies on the history of the First International, an essay on "The Origin of the International Workers' Association". The essay is based on a comprehensive study of original sources such as has never been carried out before. It gives a far more concrete picture than any previous treatment of the subject, and in particular gives a detailed description of the English Labour Movement of the time and of those of its leaders who later played a role in the I. International. The indifferent attitude prevailing in the French working class is set forth with far greater definiteness and clearness than has been done hitherto. A number of historical legends are exploded and inaccuracies corrected.

The central piece of this first volume is the publication of that portion of the well-known manuscript of Marx and Engels on "German Ideology", dealing with Feuerbach. This portion is now first made available to the public 80 years after it has been written. The editor in the introduction points out that what

is here published includes everything that Marx and Engels have written on this subject. It is hardly necessary to draw special attention to the great importance of this work for the history of the development of Marxism. But apart from this the reading of this work, which contains so much in embryo which Marx and Engels further developed later on, but in which also many subjects are touched upon which they did not revert to later, are of the greatest interest. "Feuerbach" is preceded by a new publication of Marx's "theses on Feuerbach", based on the original manuscript. This manuscript is at the same time reproduced in facsimile.

The second publication concerns the exchange of letters between Marx and Vera Sassulic on the future of the Russian village community (1881). Of this there was only known up to now the very short answer to Vera Sassulic. Now the various and very detailed concepts of Marx on this subject are published. They show that Marx originally intended to write a very exhaustive reply. The editor is of the opinion that it was only Marx's declining working capacity which prevented him from carrying out his original intention of writing an exhaustive answer. The various drafts of Marx give a striking picture of his method of work.

The section following contains a number of detailed critical reviews of the Marxist literature of the last few years. Of these we mention: The review of Karl Vorländer's works on "Kant, Fichte, Hegel and Socialism", as well as on "Marx, Engels and Lassalle as Philosophers" (by J. Luppolt); a number of writings on historical materialism by E. Kraus, Hans Delbrück, E. Brandenburg, Alfred Braunthal, Julian Borchardt (by J. Rubin); R. Stolzmann's "Criticism of Marxist Economy" (likewise by J. Rubin); a number of works on the English workers in the period of the industrial revolution (by E. Kosminsky); a detailed criticism of the new literature on chartism by Th. Rothstein (H. Schlüter, Frank F. Rosenblatt, P. W. Slosson, M. Hovell and I. West); the work of H. Stem on the Cologne workers' association (1846—1848) by E. Czobel.

The fourth part contains a number of communications.

The fifth part finally contains an exhaustive bibliography of literature on Marx, Engels and Marxism since the beginning of the world war up to September 1925, and also of the Lassalle literature for the same period. The bibliography contains not less than 1029 items.

We believe that this volume comes up to all expectations.