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Foreword

This first issue in the second decade of the life of THE JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY initiates a few changes. Despite gathering war clouds, we become herewith a quarterly. There will be issues in winter, spring, summer, and fall. The fall number will be published shortly after the annual meeting of the Economic History Association and will contain papers read at these September meetings. This Number 4 of THE JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY will be entitled also THE TASKS OF ECONOMIC HISTORY, thus preserving the name given in honor of the presidential address of Edwin F. Gay, first president of the Economic History Association, to the supplemental issue in which we have published hitherto the papers presented at the annual meetings of the Association.

In the winter, spring, and summer numbers, comment and reporting on the current literature of economic history and allied fields will fill about half of each issue, or perhaps a little more than half, as it has in past issues of THE JOURNAL. This half of THE JOURNAL will now contain two parts: "Review Articles and Discussions" and "Reviews of Books." Under the first of these general headings will be published the more extended reviews devoted to recent works of importance, but we include "Discussions" in the title of this section because we plan to present here critical analyses that focus on a theme rather than on a book. In a review, the reviewer is under obligation to give a judgment on the whole of the publication under consideration. We believe there should be opportunity also to discuss a theme or thesis without assuming obligation to give a balanced judgment on the whole book within which

it has been presented. Nor should the critical examination of a work of large importance cease in this JOURNAL merely because it has once been reviewed here. Accordingly we are making this flexible arrangement for appraisal and reappraisal of important contributions to economic history.

Under "Reviews of Books" a change in form occurs. Full titles and facts of publication are in footnotes; each review is introduced by a heading. This new form will make easier the presentation of reviews that embrace several books, will introduce foreign publications more smoothly, and will encourage our reviewers to begin, as we think reviewers should, with an idea.

To facilitate the finding of book reviews, they will be indexed under the names of the authors of the books and this index will appear on the inside covers and in the table of contents distributed with Number 4 of each volume.

Mulford Martin's bibliographies, "Recent Publications in Economic History," a feature for which THE JOURNAL has often been complimented, will appear in the issues of winter, spring, and summer.

THE EDITORS