

## OLD-AGE PENSIONS

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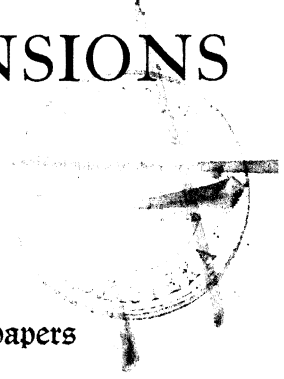
\* Members of Acting Committee.

15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

March 1903.

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# OLD-AGE PENSIONS



A Collection of Short Papers

*Review of the*



*14, 1903*

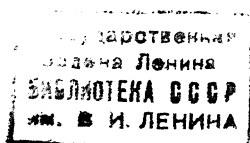
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## INTRODUCTION

MORE than two years ago a small Committee was formed of persons interested in the controversy respecting Old-Age Pensions. Some had a large personal and practical experience of the administration of friendly societies, others of Poor-law relief, others of charity. The need of the moment, it appeared to them, was not general discussion, but the examination of legislative proposals, the scrutiny of popular arguments, and the publication of the results of legislative experiments in other countries.

The short papers published in this little book are the fruits of the Committee's work. Many of them have been widely circulated. Some were written in 1899, some within the last few months. Since 1899 there has been little alteration in the Bills on the subject prepared for submission to Parliament. Indeed, though scheme has followed scheme with ever new modifications and amendments, if one may judge from the apparent cessation in productivity, it would seem as if the general stock of ingenuity were now exhausted and the wit of the inventor could no further go. There is thus the more reason for bringing the controversy to a head, if possible, and it is hoped that the following papers may serve that purpose.

Of the papers, Nos. 1 to 3 deal with groups of schemes, schemes for universal pensions or for partial pensions, to be granted subject to a thrift test or membership of a Friendly Society or in connection with an extended Poor Law; and (No. 4) with some of the chief mistakes and mis-statements frequently repeated in the general discussion of the subject.

Papers Nos. 5 to 12 contain criticisms of particular schemes or Bills.

No. 5 is an abstract of the Report of Lord Rothschild's