

A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.*

THIS volume of the veteran Socialist was originally intended to be one of a series of small books on *Race and Sex*. Dr. Wallace says that all our economic legislation, all our social reforms, must be in the very opposite direction to those hitherto adopted, for in this way only can we hope to change our existing immoral environment into a moral one, and initiate a new era of moral progress. He starts his book by showing that the great teachers of early times, such as Socrates, Confucius, Buddha, etc., give indications that the intellectual and moral character of their own period was quite equal to our own; for by morals we mean right conduct, not only in our immediate social relations, but also in our dealings with our fellow citizens and with the whole human race.

Here is his indictment when dealing with gambling, bribery, insanitary dwellings, life-destroying trades, faults in the administration of justice, and so on:—

Taking account of these various groups of undoubted facts, many of which are so gross, so terrible, that they cannot be overstated, it is not too much to say that our whole system of society is rotten from top to bottom and the Social Environment as a whole, in relation to our possibilities and our claims, is the worst that the world has ever seen.

He scorns the Eugenic idea of race improvement through regulation of marriages, and his remedies are:—

Universal co-operation in place of universal competition for the means of existence.

Freedom of access to land and capital for all, instead of the monopoly by the few of the land, without access to which no life is possible, and of capital, or the results of stored-up labour.

A few in each generation inherit the stored-up wealth of all preceding generations, while the many inherit nothing. The remedy is the universal inheritance by the State in trust for the whole community.

In a few words, our system must be brotherly co-operation and co-ordination for the equal good of all.

**Social Environment and Moral Progress*. By ALFRED RUSSELL WALLACE. (Cassell & Co. 3s. 6d. net.)