HERBERT SOMERTON FOXWELL

1849–1936

IN the late sixties and early seventies of the last century St. John's College was the nursery of Cambridge economics. It was due, I think, to the influence of the Master, the great Dr. Bateson, that St. John's joined with Trinity to foster the new studies of the Moral Sciences which had at that time no endowment whatever in the University for the younger teachers; but whilst Trinity's interests gravitated towards philosophy (Sidgwick and James Ward) or to law and history (Maitland and Cunningham), those of St. John's were entirely towards economics (Marshall and Foxwell).

Foxwell lectured at first on logic, psychology, and philosophy, leaving economics to Marshall. But in 1877, when (in the latter days of Fawcett's professorship) Marshall left Cambridge to be Principal of University College, Bristol, he became largely responsible, in conjunction with Henry Sidgwick and J. N. Keynes (who were, however, more concerned with ethics and with logic), for the honours teaching of economic studies in the University; and he so continued until Marshall's return to Cambridge as Professor eight years later in 1885. He remained as second-in-command in teaching, in lecturing, and in the direction of policy (especially in the creation of the Economics Tripos in 1901) during the whole period of Marshall's professorship up to 1908. He never left Cambridge, in spite of his close connexion with London, and before his death he had kept by residence his 205th consecutive term in the University. Foxwell continued in his College lectureship or Directorship of Studies, the only offices he ever held at Cambridge, for sixty years.

That he never held any other office, Foxwell himself was accustomed, rather bitterly, to attribute to the bias, or prejudice, as he would say, of Marshall against his approach

to the subject. 'We differ in opinion a good deal, and in temperament perhaps even more; so that some things, for which I cared much, seemed of little importance to you,' Marshall wrote to him on a particular occasion. Foxwell adhered to the rules of behaviour which had been generally current in the mid-nineteenth-century Cambridge in which he was brought up, that one stuck up for one's own claims and for one's friends' claims, and he did not forgive Marshall's support of Professor Pigou as his successor when Marshall himself retired in 1908. But Foxwell had been Marshall's first serious pupil in economics, whilst Mrs. Marshall had been one of Foxwell's first pupils, and they had been in intimate touch in the years before Marshall left Cambridge for Bristol when both were living in College. Indeed, they remained on intimate and personally affectionate terms up to 1907, in spite of periodic outbursts of difference, as there is much correspondence to testify. Each was sensible of the other's gifts, as we see in Foxwell's advocacy of Marshall's claims in his early letters to Jevons and in the characterization of Foxwell which Marshall wrote in support of his application to the Chair of Commerce at Birmingham in 1901.

It is not to be supposed that Foxwell deprecated close reasoning in economic matters. No one could be more satirical than he about bankers and their 'instincts', whether the occasion was the bimetallic controversy of the nineties or the gold-standard controversy after the War. But he held that the reasoning must be applied, if it is to be fruitful, to a wide range of facts furnished by historical and contemporary experience, and not to simplified and artificial hypotheses. He became, pursuing these lines, a much more decided opponent of doctrinaire *laisser-faire*, and at an earlier date, than most of his academic contemporaries. He was not so sure as they were of the unqualified advantage of free competition in industry. He was readier at all times to support schemes for the management of money. He supported combination in industry in the

eighties, bimetallism in the nineties, mild protectionism in the nineteen-hundreds (refusing to sign the famous manifesto of the professors), and the departure from gold in the twenties. He was also critical of what he called the 'unmoral' tendency in English economics of the period preceding his own, 'a more serious defect than immorality, which provokes a reaction',[1] of 'its inability to read the signs of the times, and its opposition to some of the most successful movements of the century'. 'In its spirit it was strongly materialistic, sacrificing national welfare to the accumulation of individual wealth. Some of its writers carried capitalism so far as to deplore high wages as a calamity comparable in its effects to a bad harvest.' Thus, amongst the prophets of his youth, he was influenced by Kingsley, F. D. Maurice, and Ruskin, and sympathetic to their protests. And strongly though he was opposed to Marx, he was, I think, the first English economist to appreciate his importance. In some respects he stood nearest to another Cambridge economist, Arthur James Balfour, his almost exact contemporary,[2] on whose mind Cambridge economic theories of the seventies produced the same attitude of scepticism, though in Balfour's case ironical and mock-respectful.[3] Perhaps it is not fanciful to see some slight influence of Foxwell's early attacks in the change in Marshall's own approach between his first theorizing and the *Principles* of 1890. At any rate, for half a century and more in discussion and conversation, though seldom in print, Foxwell propounded the view that economics is not a branch of logic or mathematics, but belongs to the art of

[1] From Foxwell's article on 'The Economic Movement in England' in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for Oct. 1887 (p. 85)—one of his best articles, and indicative of his own position.

[2] Balfour took the Moral Sciences Tripos in 1869, Foxwell in 1870.

[3] Besides the *Notes on Insular Free Trade*, there exists in printed proof a fragmentary work by Balfour on economics, probably written in the early nineties, directed, however, against Mill rather than against Marshall, the object of which is to cast general doubt on the sufficient validity of the orthodox economic theories of the day.

managing public affairs by the application of sound reasoning to the whole *corpus* of experience. In later days, after Marshall had gone quite as far in this direction as he was inclined, the presence of Foxwell in Cambridge, especially when he supported Archdeacon William Cunningham, who was much tougher of tongue in controversy and took delight, rather than irritation, in the fray, became, on the one hand, somewhat teasing to Marshall. Yet it was Marshall who, beyond dispute, dominated the Cambridge School and the promising youth, so that, on the other hand, there was to Foxwell something enervating in his secondary position and altogether inferior status in the Cambridge from which he could never tear himself away. It is against this background that Foxwell's career must be observed.

Herbert Somerton Foxwell was born at Shepton Mallet in the Mendips on 17 June 1849. His father was an ironmonger, afterwards a slate and timber merchant, highly successful in his own business, but less so in his investments, which suffered in the Overend Gurney smash of 1866. He was brought up as a Wesleyan Methodist. But by 1872 Wesleyan Methodism had dropped away, leaving only Sunday afternoons at College Chapel. In later life he seldom expressed views, and might be described as a theist with a latitudinarian but sympathetic view of religion.

His mother, who was his father's second wife, was a Handcock, an Irish family of which Lord Castlemaine is the head. She is described as a gifted and clever woman who taught her four sons entirely herself until at about twelve they went to the Wesleyan College at Taunton. She was a good pianist, and from her Foxwell acquired his strong musical taste.[1] As a child of four he learnt French

[1] He was very fond of music, and had the keenest ear. He did much towards getting the new organ for St. John's Chapel, and was at one time President of the Cambridge University Musical Society. But he never played an instrument himself, declaring that he totally lacked the necessary co-ordination of hand and brain.

from his maternal grandmother, to whom he was greatly devoted, her mother having been a Poingdestre, a Channel Islander whose language was French rather than English. Foxwell's sympathies were always strongly French, and it is easy to perceive the French and Irish strains in his temperament. The beauty and charm of his early home life never left his active memories, in the large garden with his brothers and sisters and their guinea-pigs, the white mice, and the twenty-five rabbit-hutches, the Allen family and the Wybrants the other side of the wall bordering the drive, his pony Fanny, the nursery government of Lucy who was with them many years, mamma at the piano after tea, long drives with his father, and the many miles that he 'strolled' over the Mendips. To the day of his death these were a part of his life.

He was a precocious child. Not up to the John Stuart Mill standard of reading Newton's *Principia* at eleven, but he could read French at four and would discuss events in the newspaper at seven. His diary at sixteen is already mature. Under the teaching of Mr. Sibly at Queen's College, Taunton, where he was a boarder, he was third in the honours list in the London Matriculation (1866) when he was only sixteen, which was the minimum age, and he had won the London B.A. soon after he was eighteen. At eighteen and a half he was installed at St. John's as a student of the Moral Sciences. He was Senior Moralist in the examination of 1870, and Whewell Scholar in 1872. In 1874 he was elected to a Fellowship. He was accustomed to attribute this good fortune to the influence of W. H. Thompson, the Master of Trinity, who, as an *ex officio* examiner in the Whewell examination, had been greatly struck by Foxwell's essay and reported his impression to Dr. Bateson, the Master of St. John's. But he was not a philosopher by temperament. His mind was neither transcendental nor theoretical, and he was not a generalizer. An historian rather, of the school where prejudice is not out of place. His gifts were those of memory, taste, historical

imagination, and extreme orderliness; and it was his passion for orderliness and classification, touched with connoisseurship, which determined his life's work.

Shortly before Marshall left Cambridge for Bristol, Foxwell came under what proved to be for him a more sympathetic influence. In 1874 Foxwell had been appointed, at an unusually early age, to examine in the Moral Sciences Tripos. Jevons was one of his colleagues, and in this connexion in December 1874 paid his first visit to Cambridge. This was the beginning of a close friendship which lasted until Jevons's death in 1882. In the Lent Term of 1876 Jevons, Professor-Elect at University College, London, being not yet able to leave Owens College, Manchester, Foxwell lectured in his place. Five years later, on 7 May 1881, Foxwell was appointed to succeed Jevons in the University College Chair. In December of the same year Jevons, just after he had begun to collect his *Investigations in Currency and Finance*, paid his last visit to Foxwell at Cambridge; and after his death in 1882 Foxwell was asked to complete the work of editorship, the book appearing in 1884. Subsequently he spent much time in piecing together and getting into proof the fragments of Jevons's unfinished *Principles of Economics*, though the work had to be completed and published by Mr. Higgs as late as 1905.

Foxwell's association with London, to which Jevons had introduced him, continued for forty-six years until his resignation in 1927. After the foundation of the London School of Economics in 1896, he lectured there on currency and banking; and he was the first Dean of the Faculty of Economics in the new University of London. But he never lived in London, and never found his associations with London University fully satisfactory. Twice he applied for other chairs. In 1901 he stood for the new Chair of Commerce at Birmingham with the support of A. J. Balfour, Giffen, Marshall, Edgeworth, Nicholson, and J. N. Keynes, when, nevertheless, W. J. Ashley was appointed; and in

1908 he sought to succeed Marshall at Cambridge. An account by Miss Collet of Foxwell's associations with University College is printed in the *Economic Journal* for December 1936.

The double burden of work at London and Cambridge and journeying between the two joined with other factors to fill Foxwell's time too full for original work. The promise of his first original essay 'Irregularity of Employment and Fluctuations of Prices', published in 1886, was not fulfilled. He spent much energy in examining, and was a meticulous, though sometimes belated, correspondent, always ready to treat any detail as of importance. Indeed, he was for ever occupied with all manner of details, and never left himself the opportunity for concentration on a continuous piece of work. But, besides these impediments, Foxwell was wont to declare with sincerity, in spite of his love of the bound and printed word, that he was *against* the writing of books, except for grave cause. He was altogether opposed to the idea that it was the duty of every academic person to be constantly occupied with pen-driving. He was in a peculiar degree satisfied with the manifold little experiences of the day, and had no need of the anodyne against mortality which the production of any book between hard covers can, it seems, provide to those less able than he to take delight in the running current of daily life. At any rate, he only once appeared as himself the tenant of hard covers,[1] and preferred to provide material or write an introduction for the work of some one else. The fragments which came from his pen in the course of his long career have been recorded in the *Economic Journal* (Dec. 1936), (for Foxwell, of all men, should not be left without a bibliography); but the essence of Foxwell, and the part he played in fostering economic studies in England, are not to be found there. Most of his papers are concerned with financial and monetary topics, with a special reference to bimetallism.

[1] In his collected *Papers on Current Finance* which appeared just after the War (1919).

He took a leading part in the bimetallic controversy, as one of the outstanding academic supporters of change, and as a friend and helper of the American authorities, General F. A. Walker and Dana Horton. But his most solid and important work is to be found in the account of the early English Socialists prefixed as an introduction of a hundred pages to the English translation of Anton Menger's *The Right to the Whole Produce of Labour* (1899), followed by a bibliography of eighty pages.

Foxwell's fondness for conversation and company made him a great supporter of clubs and circles for the discussion of economic questions. He became a member of the Political Economy Club so long ago as 1882 on his appointment to the Chair at University College, and was at his death its senior member. He played an important part in the foundation of the British Economic Association, now the Royal Economic Society, being an original member of the Council and one of its three honorary secretaries, an office which he continued to hold until his death nearly forty-seven years later. He was President of the Society for the years 1929 to 1931. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1905.

Foxwell was a bachelor up to his fiftieth year, when (in July 1898) he married Olive May, eldest daughter of W. E. Dorrington, a member of a well-known firm of Manchester shippers. Whilst keeping his rooms in College for books and teaching, he then moved to 1 Harvey Road, Cambridge, where he lived for nearly forty years up to his death. He had two daughters, of whom the elder, Audrey, kept house for him after his wife's death in 1930, and tended his last years and his extreme old age in complete sympathy and devotion. In spite of his great charm, Foxwell was not an easy man for those who had to do with him. He was wilful, obstinate, and could be most unreasonable—exceedingly troublesome to any one who wanted to smooth over personal difficulties and keep the peace. Perhaps it was the Irish strain in him which made him so reluctant to com-

promise, so backward in give-and-take, so unresponsive to the English pressure to avoid an open breach and an outspoken personal grievance; he would remain in excellent good temper in the midst of a feud which the thin-skinned Englishman might find distressing. In particular, he waged unceasing war against the treatment by the authorities of the University of London of the Goldsmiths' Library, which housed his first and greatest collection of books; and he never entered it again after 1915. He had, indeed, good grounds for grievance, but more placable methods might have found a solution. His open wilfulness was an essential part of him, but it stood in his way in the attainment of his ends in English academic circles which hate a row. The mention of the Goldsmiths' Library brings us, however, to Foxwell's main life-work and his chief claim to be remembered, his study and classification and collection of every fragment of printed economic argument and record from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries.

Macaulay, following Dr. Johnson, had emphasized the significance of ephemeral tracts and pamphlets as guides for the historian to the currents of contemporary opinion. M'Culloch was the first substantial collector of economic ephemerals, but his collection suffered, according to Foxwell, from the defect that he 'excluded, with rare exceptions, all books which did not come up to his standard of orthodoxy'. Jevons was the first wholesale accumulator of this literature; and it was from Jevons that Foxwell caught the taste. It began in 1875 when Jevons, walking with Foxwell in Great Portland Street, persuaded him to buy Lardner's *Railway Economy* from a bookstall. In the course of the next sixty years Foxwell acquired above 80,000 volumes; or at the rate of about four volumes each week-day over that whole period! The perusal of second-hand book catalogues, the selection, purchase, and reading of fresh discoveries, their annotating, cataloguing, and binding came to occupy over many years a great part of his time and thought. Foxwell read much of what he purchased, and

his brief, significant notes and summings-up, many thousands of them, written on the inside cover or fly-leaves or on loose slips of paper inserted by the title-page or on the paper covers which contain many of the pamphlets of the collection destined for Harvard, add very greatly to the value of what he assembled. In course of time he became ever more insatiable, sometimes buying whole collections, and not merely single volumes. He came to regard it almost as a moral fault to miss a desirable purchase. I remember his advice to me that one should never hesitate in such a matter. 'I have often regretted *not* buying a book,' he would say, 'but I have *never* regretted buying one.' He had no rules of prudence for rationing his purchases. 'Books', he said, 'are not groceries, one cannot buy them by the week.' They were *trouvailles* to be stalked and pursued, and taken when they could be got. Nothing was allowed to stand in his way—except, perhaps, that in old age he never became accustomed to some of the high prices now current, largely through his own instrumentality, for his favourite rarities. This unrestrained ardour involved him in considerable embarrassments and anxiety. Foxwell had but small means, and never held a well-paid appointment; I doubt if his income reached £1,000 a year at any time. It is extraordinary that he should have managed to carry on as one of the largest-scale book collectors in the world. It meant much denial in other directions and devoted help on the part of his wife—they lived for many years without a servant. His method, moreover, was to run up a larger overdraft than even a lenient banker could approve. And when, from time to time, in later years, a major crisis arose, the collection had to be sold; a new one being forthwith commenced upon the substantial surplus of the proceeds. Altogether four collections were assembled, two major and two relatively minor.

The first, and the most splendid, such as can never be collected again, was purchased by the Goldsmiths' Company in 1901 for presentation to the University of London.

The story of the purchase is related by Foxwell himself, together with much else about the collection, in the appendix on 'Economic Libraries' at the end of the first volume of Mr. Higgs's edition of Palgrave's *Dictionary of Political Economy*. The price originally paid by the Goldsmiths' was £10,000. But their generosity did not end in 1901. For a further thirteen years they continued to make additional grants, amounting, I think, to some £4,000, to enable Foxwell to make further acquisitions, and, in particular, to allow him to bind the pamphlets in a very sumptuous style. But Foxwell's delight in completing it and in clothing it in suitable garb was much impaired by friction, not with the Goldsmiths', whose continuing generosity he considered beyond praise, but with the University, whose officials were oblivious, in Foxwell's opinion, of the unique value of what had been entrusted to their care. Finally his dissatisfaction became so acute that he resigned from the Library committee, and never again revisited the apple of his eye after the spring of 1915. This situation weighed on Foxwell so heavily, as a perpetual source of anxiety and irritation over the last third of his life, that no account of him can escape mention of it. The excuse lay, of course, in the general over-crowding of the University buildings. In the new University pile in Bloomsbury, within a stone's throw of the British Museum, a worthy habitation is destined for the books, where Foxwell's spirit may hover in peace over the treasures of his mind and fancy.

Up to 1913 or 1914, therefore, Foxwell's best efforts were directed towards completing the Goldsmiths' Library, although he had already been taking the opportunity for some years to buy duplicates for his own second collection. But after that date this second collection was his main objective. The last great dispersals after the War of the numerous country-house libraries collected in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries as the proper ornament of every English gentleman's family mansion, gave him one more grand opportunity, and by 1929, when

he was eighty years of age, the overdraft problem, in spite of the large surplus made available by the Goldsmiths' purchase, was again reaching an inevitable crisis. At that date, in addition to his main collection, he possessed a secondary collection of duplicates amounting to about 4,000 items; and in the first instance it was this that he decided to sell. He drew up a prospectus setting forth the character of its main contents. This came into the hands of Professor Allyn Young of Harvard, and on his advice this secondary collection was purchased for £4,000 by Harvard University. But on his visits to Cambridge for this purpose Allyn Young became aware of the much greater attractions of the main collection which he was able to inspect at St. John's and Harvey Road; with the result that an arrangement was made by which this collection was also to pass to Harvard eventually, but, as regards the bulk of it, only after Foxwell's death. This library, estimated to contain some 35,000 volumes, is even more valuable to-day, and more difficult to replace, than in 1929; and it should rank with the Goldsmiths' Library in London and the Seligman collection in Columbia as one of the three outstanding economic libraries in the world. In some respects, of course, it is by no means the equal of the Goldsmiths'—in particular there are not so many volumes from famous collections and owners, and the tracts and pamphlets are not yet bound on the splendid standards of the Goldsmiths'. But, on the other hand, there are some departments in which it is superior, especially in the great abundance of its revolutionary literature, in which Foxwell had not taken a special interest in early years, but which he rightly came subsequently to consider as of high interest in the history and evolution of economic institutions. For Foxwell was one of the pioneers in attaching great significance to what is now called Institutionalism as a necessary subject for study by economists, and he was often to be found protesting against the falsification of facts involved in theories which regard society as merely a

congeries of discrete individuals. Generally speaking, the Harvard collection is particularly strong on the historical side, as compared with the Goldsmiths', and it should prove almost as useful a source for the political and general historian as for the historian of the evolution of economic life and institutions or of the progress of economic thought and literature.

There are two characteristics which mark all the Foxwell collections. He catalogued and arranged them, not by authors, and only secondarily by subjects, but *chronologically*; that is to say, all those items published in (say) 1741 will be catalogued together. In this way the student is provided with a conspectus of events and opinions year by year, and is able to judge what was attracting the attention of the contemporary mind. This procedure has been followed by Mr. Higgs in the *Economic Bibliography*, mainly based on Foxwell's collections,[1] which has been prepared under the auspices of the British Academy and the Royal Economic Society, and of which the first volume, covering the years 1751–75, has been published by the Cambridge University Press. In the second place, Foxwell decided to fix his stopping-point at the year 1848, purchases of subsequent publications being mainly restricted to historical works and books which had a bearing on the pre-1848 literature. He used to say that he fixed on this year partly because it was the year of publication of Mill's *Political Economy*, and partly because it was the year of the revolutions in Europe; partly also—perhaps we can sentimentally add—to allow Foxwell himself and the modern age to be born together in the succeeding year 1849 (a vintage year, he said). Foxwell chose only to be concerned with what was brought forth before he was.

Unlike Jevons, Foxwell was seriously addicted to bibliophily, indeed to bibliomania, as such. He loved to hold a beautiful book in his hand and to remember what famous

[1] Including Foxwell's large collection of cuttings from booksellers' catalogues relating to items which he had *not* acquired.

library or ownership it came from. *Provenance* is always recorded in his notes, and he would write these notes, as he would speak of such matters, with some flavour of style which had the power to convey his feeling and his sentiment so as to convince the reader or the hearer that these details are important. Who, that has sat with him in the study at Harvey Road, has not handled his Helvetius which had belonged to Frederick the Great; or the very decent copy of the first edition of the *Wealth of Nations* which he purchased in Bristol on 16 January 1882 for 3*s*. 6*d*.? The Sunderland, Osterley Park, Hamilton Palace, Duke of Sussex, Duke of Cambridge, Duke of Buccleuch, Duke of Portland, Earl of Lauderdale, George Chalmers, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Monteagle, Speaker Onslow, Lord Ashburton libraries—in fact all the great dispersals of the half-century preceding the War—contributed to the Goldsmiths' Collection, and there are books from the personal libraries of Arthur Young, Adam Smith, Ricardo, Cobbett, Francis Place, Quetelet, Senior, and Smiles. Besides broadsides and Acts of Parliament which are present in abundance, there is a collection of old banknotes and many engravings and prints of economists.

Above all, as the result of careful experiment, he arrived at certain fixed principles, which had behind them so much thought and experience and connoisseurship that a few of them are worth recording. He had a strong prejudice against card catalogues, and insisted on entries, many to a page, written on quarto sheets. And surely he was right. There is in a card catalogue something most contrary to the habit of eye of those who are accustomed to handle print rapidly, the most un-bookish thing conceivable, no fit furniture outside a laboratory or an office. He insisted that every pamphlet must be separately bound,[1] and was, perhaps, the first to depart on principle from the eighteenth-century practice, still common in nineteenth-

[1] He would very occasionally bind two editions of the same pamphlet together, and here, I think, he was wrong.

century Cambridge as elsewhere, of binding pamphlets in a series of volumes each containing six or eight roughly arranged according to their contents. He greatly objected to re-backing a book; if the original binding was sufficiently interesting though frail, it must have a box, and otherwise be bound anew. Here perhaps he went too far; but nothing, one must agree, is more obnoxious than the type of re-backing which certain booksellers practise between purchase and re-sale. Though he loved a fine contemporary binding, he did not share the modern insistence on a contemporary binding as such; and he was not above binding a book in 'original boards' or 'wrappers', which is, after all, a state of undress, so that it could be used more easily. These principles involved him in a formidable task of binding, which was partly made possible by the special grants from the Goldsmiths'. For many years Stoakley's of Cambridge, which inherited a tradition of such craftsmanship in Cambridge back to the sixteenth century, were occupied on his work. Foxwell knew exactly what he wanted, and always gave his binders the most precise directions. For materials he preferred morocco and, afterwards, pre-eminently, niger, often blind-tooled or with narrow plain gold bands on panelled backs. At first whole-bindings for books and rare early pamphlets, and otherwise half-bindings; but his final view was decisively in favour of a quarter-binding (with vellum tips) in preference to a half-binding. At one time when skilled labour was cheap, he followed the nineteenth-century practice, now frowned upon, of cleaning valuable books page by page and re-sizing them; Stoakley's were skilled at this, and the work was well done on the standards of the day.

He would read second-hand-book catalogues with the utmost care. In his extreme old age this reading was his particular pleasure—to see in the catalogues the titles and prices of old friends being almost as delightful as a new discovery. In the last year of his life he said to me with a smile that he had got to the point where he much preferred the

catalogues to the books. In his eighty-seventh year there was no frailty of old age which annoyed him more than that his eyes became tired before the day's catalogues were finished. His librarian, Mr. Scott of St. John's, would pay a daily visit to remind him of what he possessed already, as he sat up in his dressing-gown, looking at the last immensely old, with a book catalogue in one hand and a telegraph form in the other,[1] a fit subject for a Rembrandt etching of the Old Collector.

These details are indicative of his temperament. Marshall once wrote to him: 'I have noticed that when a book or a pamphlet pleases you greatly you describe it as "scholarly": whereas I am never roused to great enthusiasm about anything which does not seem to me thoroughly "scientific".' This was a true distinction and a true characterization. But Foxwell's temperament was that of an artist as well as of a scholar. He was wholly free from the *Verbesserung* malady, and in the literal sense of the word a conservative. He took delight in the outward appearances of things, in the touch of material substances, in the contrivances of the craftsman, in fine workmanship; and on the whole he found them good and did not wish them changed. He would be at great pains to find what was the best, in the choice of a biscuit as much as of a binding, and once found it was never supplanted. He had the most passionate feelings for natural beauty; and here again, his favourites, once found, were permanent. For many years Barmouth in Wales held all his fancy.[2] One has heard him tell a hundred times of a wide prospect above Barmouth overlooking the estuary and the range of Cader Idris, which he held to be the fairest in the world and to

[1] He never agreed to instal a telephone and would complain that other collectors got ahead of him by the use of this improper artifice.

[2] In the last days of his life, I saw him with an old guide-book to Wales and the time-table out on his desk, to direct Charon to Barmouth.

which his mind's eye was always recurring in absence; and he directed that the ashes of his body should be scattered from this eminence.

J. M. K.

[The above is based on a fuller memoir which appeared in the *Economic Journal* for December 1936, where a bibliography of Foxwell's writings is also to be found.]