

*Social Pathology.* By SAMUEL GEORGE SMITH, PH.D., LL.D.,  
University of Minnesota. New York: Macmillan, 1911.  
Pp. vi+380.

The reviewer confesses that when he picked up this work it was with anticipation of its inadequacy—how could the field of social pathology be covered in one moderate-sized volume? The Table of Contents mentions the development of institutions; the relation of poverty to economics, labor, the church, the city, the individual, the family, and to private charity. Then conduct, and particularly crime, is considered in its relation to economics and psychology. The insane, the feeble-minded, the blind, and the deaf have in their turn a chapter each. Other social failures, such as suicide, prostitution, and drunkenness, are cursorily reviewed. At several points treatment, including eugenics, is gone into and the work winds up with a collection of social statistics. One has reasons to feel at first sight that the covers of the work may be strained.

Yet in delving into the text one gets an impression of directness, concentration, good proportion, and straightforwardness of diction that is very satisfactory. The work is an introductory manual or outline, intended as such and meeting well its own aims. Its statements are well balanced, as well as terse, and it is packed full of facts, which, if they are as correctly stated as the ones with which the reviewer is familiar, are trustworthy.

The value of the work is not quite so clear as the masterfulness of the way in which it is treated. To sit down and read it, seems like cramming for an examination. It may be that breadth of vision will be obtained from its use, and it may be that it will be found useful for classroom purposes. But, after all, social questions—most of them—are rich in pros and cons and unsettled fundamental problems, and a mere concise statement of many facts will, to good students, prove quite unsatisfactory. One of the chief values of the study of sociology, as well as of economics, is the arousing of active, argumentative thought. Satisfactory pabulum for such mental processes is hardly to be found in a manual of this kind. However, since the author specifically does not attempt to furnish anything except points of view, perhaps it is only necessary to call attention to his delimitations.

One finds in the book a certain number of statements which are unsatisfactory and some of which would undoubtedly be willingly changed by the author. For instance, in the Preface we note; "Physical measurements, physical diagnosis, psychopathic laboratories, and

the slaughter of the unfit are efforts in the wrong direction." Surely this must be a misprint or a slip of the pen, for elsewhere the author repeatedly and very favorably dwells on the work that is being done by physicians and psychologists along just these lines in connection with the study of crime, insanity, feeble-mindedness, and so on. One also might take exception to his statement that the indications are that most children are well born; being afterward ruined by physical accident or disease or by social failures. He seems to have confounded the observation that children, for the most part, when born do not present any discoverable blemishes with the conclusion that they are *ipso facto* necessarily well born. Not even Dr. Chapin, whom he elsewhere quotes, would be willing to acknowledge this, since the meaning of the term "good heredity" implies biological and psychological potentialities which may show later during the developmental period just as much as the physical appearances at birth when individuals differ in apparent abilities so little from each other. And altogether, without at all declaring a brief for the heredity specialists, one would hardly want, in the face of the recently accumulated data on the subject, easily to accede to Smith's contention that the doctrine of heredity has been largely overworked. One must feel that the time is not yet ripe for deciding this question. Some other generalizations, particularly in the preface, are open to critical questioning.

The author stands all through pretty strongly for the predominance of the influence of environment and for the importance of psychical processes. This is specifically expressed for instance, in the statement that the so-called recidivists are not those who have been born to crime, but are, on the contrary, those who have been treated by the retributive methods. His chapters on crime elaborate this idea and are for the most part particularly good.

One feels keenly that the author in the presentation of such a manual should have guided the student directly up to a fuller consideration of all of the special topics. Anyone who enters this field could hardly be satisfied with the mere study of outlines—at least some topics of special interest must for any sort of intellectual satisfaction, be more thoroughly considered. To this end it would have been well to have referred discriminatingly to the fuller works and special discussions. This has frequently been done in manuals on other subjects and has proven a most helpful plan. We find at the end of this volume a hodge-podge bibliography, which the author at once confesses mentions works of very unequal value; the inequality, however, not being indicated.

A great service might have been rendered by a discriminating reference at the end of every chapter. A future edition might well be improved by this important addition.

WILLIAM HEALY

CHICAGO

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*The Socialist Movement.* By J. RAMSAY MACDONALD, M.P. New York. Henry Holt & Co., 1911. Pp. xiii+256.

The book consists of four parts: (1) "Socialist Evolution"; being a discussion of individualistic and socialistic tendencies in politics, economics, and industry. (2) "Socialist Criticism"; being a recital of the usual imputations, strictures, and charges against capitalism. (3) "Socialist Construction"; being a good exposition of what socialism is not, of the immediate demands of socialism, and of the socialist state. (4) "The Socialist Movement"; being a short account of the movement including the Utopians, Marxians, and the German, French, Italian, Belgian, and American parties.

Whatever the author did he did well. The argument lacks the rigor and vigor of the Marxian, becoming at many points so mild as hardly to be distinguished from a plan of meliorism which seeks not to overthrow the fundamental institutions but to improve them. The method of revolution, economic determinism, class struggle, the abolition of all private property are alike read out of court as not essential to or representative of genuine modern socialism.

The author has packed much into the small compass of the volume. He has taken such reasonable positions on most points that he will not antagonize those who differ from him in belief but will invite them to "come and reason together." I heartily commend the book to Socialists and non-Socialists alike.

T. J. RILEY

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*"Obscene" Literature and Constitutional Law.* A Forensic Defense of the Freedom of the Press. By THEODORE SCHROEDER. New York, Privately printed, 1911. Pp. 439.

The problem of obscenity under the law is important and difficult, and a scholarly and dispassionate discussion of it would be welcomed. The tone of the present treatise, however, displays a want of judicial temper and sometimes a want of dignity. Such phrases as "I cannot for the life of me conceive," or "pee-wee clerk," or "the varied intellectual wabblings of the United States courts" are in doubtful taste.