

Education and the Mores: A Sociological Essay. By F. Stuart Chapin, Ph.D., Sometime University Fellow in Sociology. New York; Columbia University. Longmans, Green & Co., Agents. 1911.

Industrial Causes of Congestion of Population in New York City. By Edward Ewing Pratt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics and Statistics, New York School of Philanthropy. New York: Columbia University. Longmans, Green & Co., Agents. 1911.

The first of these essays discusses with intelligence the conservative function which education performed in early society, and shows quite clearly that education to-day, especially that given in our common schools, has not transcended this function; that it yet is engaged in transmitting to the rising generation the point of view and the social standards required under conditions now passed; and consequently is not very effective in aiding the young to adjust themselves to the new environment of to-day.

The second essay, as its title so well indicates, enters thoroughly into an analysis of the industrial causes which have controlled the location of industries and the consequent location and distribution of the population in our greatest city. As an intensive study of a given phase of sociological conditions in a limited field, it is suggestive and valuable.

C. S. GARDNER.

Laughter: An Essay on the Meaning of the Comic. By Henri Bergson, Professor at the College of France. Authorized Translation by Claudesley Brereton and Fred Rothwell. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. \$1.25 net.

Bergson's remarkable power of keen analysis is manifest in this little book. His thesis may be roughly stated thus: The comic is an effect produced upon one when he sees automatism where he naturally looks for living adaptation; laughter is a social function, is a social reaction for the correction, the chaster action, and life is always in danger of falling into automatism, so to speak, of this fault. Automatism tends ever to atism. Hence the important function of laughter.

Thus rudely stated the thesis will, doubtless, not commend itself to the reader. But one who will read this delightful essay