has much to do with his prosperity as a farmer.

The same lack of concrete investigation upon a subject relating to life and economics most importantly is found in the publications of the Agricultural Department at Washington, and also in the authoritative work of Dr. L. O. Howard upon this subject.

Dr. Gerhard's pamphlet gives excellent suggestions as to how proper sanitation about the farm home will reduce the number of flies and mosquitoes, which may be carriers of disease, and are certainly productive of annoyance. It is to be hoped that some scientific investigator will appreciate the importance of carrying on experimentation in such fashion as to be able to propose to farmers a method of handling horse manure so as to prevent the breeding therein of flies without the destruction in consequence of the value of the manure.

J. HORACE MCFARLAND.

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FOXY GOVERNMENT, OR FALLACIES OF THE DES MOINES PLAN. By P. H. Ryan. Published by the author, February 1912.

This is a title which commands attention, especially from students, debaters and librarians who have long looked in vain for "something on the other side." Such searchers will be disappointed, however, in this slender volume, for it constitutes the sort of opposition which the friends of the Des Moines plan should welcome with shouts of joy.

It is a gale of ill-tempered declamation assailing the theory of the commission plan and sneering at the enthusiasm of its supporters in Des Moines. The opening sections are devoted respectively to Adam, Abraham ("When Abraham tried the Commission Plan") Romulus and Remus, Alexander and Napoleon, all of whom, it seems, did much damage in their days by setting up new fool forms of government.

Among the gems (Come now, C. R. W.—stay that blue pencil! I know the screed is not worth our space but we have to have a *little* fun in this magazine!) among the gems that shine from the pages are the following:

Ward representation is eliminated, destroying a representative form of government.

The United States is the only republic existing for a greater length of time than any other.

Rotation in office is the one great check against trickery and crookedness.

As to initiative, referendum and recall:

Such a system causes turmoil, unrest and produces a virulent form of anarchism.

The only ones desiring it (commission government, in other cities) are a clique of muckrakers.

As proof of a nation-wide "conspiracy" to spread the commission plan, the author cites the existence of municipal leagues in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and other states, "the leaders of which have no other motive than mercenary."

As to the reason why the number of commissioners was set at five:

If the ball of the thumb is adjusted in proper juxtaposition with the apex of the nose, the fingers apart, extended in the direction of Hawaii, and wigwagged at the other fellow in a contemptuous manner, an insinuation of disdain is implied that may have been the inspiration that led to the selection of a quintette as the most feasible galaxy of units.

Not everything that the author presents is false or frivolous. There are fallacies in the commission plan, there are defects in the details of the Des Moines charter and the commissioners have been human enough to err from time to time, but this glib critic is too poorly grounded in political science and too biased to be either an acceptable collector or interpreter of the facts.

RICHARD S. CHILDS.

New York.