the report on commission government. In the words of Delegate Wilson of California, “in every city in the state of California where we were conducting a campaign with the non-partisan ballot, the short ballot and the non-partisan ballot . . . [we found] that the only political organization that could hold its strength through the campaign, both primary and final, was the Socialist organization” (p. 556). Delegate Le Suer gave exactly the same testimony for his home town in North Dakota. The convention of 1912 finally voted to leave to the state Socialist parties the difficult question of indorsing or condemning the commission form of government.

These are some of the things to be found in a volume which in its title betrays no interest whatever in municipal government.

WILLIAM ANDERSON.


This is the first orderly presentation in book form concerning architectural arrangements for outdoor auditoriums, though there have been many magazine articles, usually discussing some one example of open-air theatres. In the introduction to this pleasing volume, Percy Mackaye writes: “In direct relation to the redeeming of country and industrial districts through constructive leisure is the founding of outdoor theatres for the people.” In this paragraph Mr. Mackaye gives us a name for that recreational use of time now coming to be known as essential to the well-rounded productive existence of every worth-while man or woman. “Constructive leisure” is right, as a phrase and as an ideal, if we Americans are to become and remain reasonably efficient.

Some of us have had dreams of a time when there would exist in connection with capitol and city halls, and in juxtaposition to other ceremonial locations, definitely arranged outdoor auditoriums which would not only serve a most excellent purpose in affording opportunities for the presentation of other dramas in the open air than those concerned with baseball and football, but would be used on great occasions instead of the abominable wooden “grand-stands.” These are invariably ugly, invariably of wasteful expense, not seldom dangerous to life and limb, and almost always the reason for that wrongful use of our national flag which occurs when it hides raw hemlock or spruce construction.

Professor Waugh tells why the outdoor theatre is worth while, how it may best be used, what are its physical essentials, and where existing examples in the United States may be seen. The illustrations in this important volume include diagrams and details, and really illustrate. As we come to realize better the net civic value of making possible “constructive leisure,” and the dignity of doing away with footty grand-stands for inaugurations and similar ceremonials, this pioneer work will be highly valued.

As always, Professor Waugh writes entertainingly and unconventionally. The volume is good to look at, and good to read.

J. HORACE MCFARLAND.


The same author who has presented the present status of the outdoor theatre is responsible for what is actually a companion volume in format and time of publication, though there is no interdependence of the two books. Landscape gardening, or architecture, or engineering—and no one of the three nouns is accurately descriptive when associated with its qualifying adjective—is Professor Waugh’s vocation, and the natural form of it is his hobby. He writes entertainingly of it, as indeed he always writes, and in addition, sets forth a logical series of reasons for
catholicity in landscape practice. This same catholicity may eventually become "an American style," the establishment of which, in the sense that there is a definite Italian style and a definite Japanese style, Professor Waugh deems doubtful.

The National Municipal Review is not the place for an extended discussion of the volume in question. It is a proper place to indicate the real value of Professor Waugh's book to those who have to do not only with home grounds and private estates, but who are concerned in the proper and serviceable development of landscape in municipal and state parks. It is safe to say that the candid man who has read this volume will not contentedly submit to any extension of "carpet" bedding, of abnormal displays of stone dogs and wriggling carved vines in marble, in public parks, such as we occasionally see. Nor would any thoughtful reader of Professor Waugh feel satisfied that it is proper to spend money for the rearing in greenhouses maintained with the money of the public, of chrysanthemums wonderfully tied out so as to resemble nothing ever conceived by a sane imagination, of vines twisted into the shapes of stars and balls and anchors—all of which were to be seen during the autumn of 1917 in one of the parks of Buffalo.

Professor Waugh's treatise is sound, wholesome, constructive; it is good sense in the shape of good reading. It will be of value in any civic library, private or public.

J. H. McF.


This admirable volume establishes a precedent which it is devoutly to be hoped will be followed in the older cities of the country. It is a careful, first-hand documentary study, not of the general history of the city which has been well covered in other books, but of its governmental life. So far as we recall there has been no exactly similar work undertaken, at least on so extensive a scale. The Johns Hopkins studies in historical and political science contained several volumes, notably the one on Philadelphia by Messrs. Allinson and Penrose, which in their way were important and significant contributions, but they do not approach in extent, thoroughness and detail the present work which is one of the "Studies in History, Economics and Public Law" edited by the faculty of political science, Columbia University.

Of the many interesting chapters that on "Regulation of Land and Streets" has a special interest in these days of congestion and zoning. The so-called "Duke's plan" shows the congested area of 1664, when the English took possession as the municipality passed its tenth birthday. From this we see that congestion is not exactly new, nor are city plans. There was no such thing as excess condemnation in those days, but there were city lands, the sale of which began far back as 1686, for this volume goes back to the seventeenth century on the theory that the conditions then were essentially those of the eighteenth century. These city lands were sold on various conditions, appropriate to the time. The street cleaning problem then as now was a pressing one.

An excellent perspective is maintained throughout both parts, both of which abound in documentary evidence and sanely and conservatively expressed views and conclusions. The treatment is topical, including such subjects as the city's relation and control over trade, industry, docks, ferries, police, streets and finances, together with illuminating references to the early economic and political life of the city. The chapters dealing with the political aspects have their value enhanced by comparative references to other Colonial cities, especially Philadelphia, and by a discussion of the influences of religious organizations on the politics and development of the city.