DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

I. BOOK REVIEWS

OUR AMERICA. By John A. Lapp. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1920. Pp. 392.

THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. By S. E. Forman. New York: The Century Company, 1920. Pp. 458.

Both of these volumes are well-known school text-books revised and rewritten. Mr. Lapp's book retains its original title, but Mr. Forman has so greatly modified his original *Advanced Civics* that he thinks it best to change the name.

Mr. Lapp's plan of treatment is a progression from the concrete to the abstract. Beginning with a consideration of the basic needs of humanity, especially community needs, he gradually leads the student into the question of government as the community agency for dealing with the problems arising out of those needs. Then after giving the student some conception of the general nature of government the author presents a panoramic view of the government of the United States—national, state, and local. The functional activities of our national, state, and local governments are treated next, and this is succeeded by an exposition of the leading factors in the operation of the American system of government. The book is simply and clearly written, and each chapter is supplemented with stimulating questions and data as to further sources of information. It should be a useful text-book in the lower grades.

The American Democracy is a much more pretentious volume. Evidently Mr. Forman has had the secondary schools in mind, and has confidence in the ability of the more advanced pupil to deal with such abstruse subjects as democracy, representative government, suffrage, checks and balances as preliminary to the study of the structure and operation of the government of the United States in its several divisions and branches. The last part of the book is devoted to a discussion of the functions of government, but far more attention is given to the functional activities of the Federal government than to those of state and local government. For the assistance of the teacher, thought-provoking questions and a helpful bibliography are

appended to each chapter. The author has made considerable use of charts and diagrams, which evidently are not original with him although the sources from which he has borrowed are not acknowledged. With so many excellent charts available, it is regrettable that in several instances the author's choice has not been good. In conclusion it may be remarked that the book is a great improvement upon the author's *Advanced Civics*, and that all who found that book valuable will find the present volume doubly so.

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PAPERS ON THE LEGAL HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT. By Melville M. Bigelow. New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 1920. Pp. 256.

The author has made a general study of political institutions in the old German tribal states, the Roman Empire, and England from the Roman to the end of the Mediæval period with the object of discovering the permanent—and perhaps universal—principles which are at the basis of political society. With the means of carrying the principles into effect and the reaction of the people to the principles under varying conditions, he is concerned only as these throw light upon the principles themselves.

The main thesis of the volume is that the realization of unity in government through a common will is essential to the continued success of even the best political mechanism and management. To this unity the free individual contributes the essential energy, dynamic and initiative. The old family furnishes the principle of service and co-operation. The former are the good fruits of individualism; the latter are the unifying products of collectivism. In both, the actuating motive is spontaneous and voluntary service, and not merely habitual obedience to imposed authority and will.

Except for the obstacle of polytheism, the old German tribal states approached very nearly to this ideal of unity. The Roman Empire had centralization, but never unity. In England, the old German institutions were rapidly

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