Reviews of Books

The State and the Individual. An Introduction to Political Science with special reference to Socialistic and Individualistic Theories.
By W. S. McKECHNIE. (Glasgow: Maclehose. 1896.)

MR. McKECHNIE gives us 'an introduction to the theory of the State with special reference to one of its divisions, the methods and limits of government interference' (Preface), or 'the proper sphere of government' (89). His book is a good summary of recent philosophical and popular discussions on the subject. His own principles are those of Hegel, Green, and Mr. Caird. 'A State is an independent organised society' (48). The relation of individual and State is 'organic.' The well-known difficulties in this well-known analogy are considered; and the author concludes with Mr. Herbert Spencer that 'super-organic' or 'hyper-organic' would be a better word than organic (16, cf. 12 seq.), for the body politic is *sui generis*, and all other organisms fall short of it (19). In this and in many another dictum of Mr. McKechnie the point is too fine. We are told, for example (p. 1): 'All human beings are necessarily citizens of a State.' The immediate context shows that 'necessarily' means 'potentially'; but we have not always so ready a means of blunting the point. We are told that 'in every act of statecraft, however hurriedly performed, and though unaccompanied by a single word, a complete theory of government, of society, and of the State, an entire system of philosophy is implicitly involved and tacitly, if not expressly, approved' (83). 'No province can be found which is absolutely that of the State in the sense of excluding individual action, while equally there is no province of the isolated subject which absolutely excludes the government' (167). Happily concessions are made (292, 390) which allow weary man to take sanctuary in literature or religion; but why overstate the case at first? Such overstatement may be more safely practised in a course of lectures than in a printed book, though in either case an express *caveat* seems an indispensable part of it. Mr. McKechnie might have avoided also the multitude of references, imperative for a record of events or history of theories, but less needful for the construction of a theory, where the reader is more anxious to know what the arguments are than to know who first suggested them to the author. A political philosopher, too, perhaps above all others, finds it hard to know how much and how little to take for granted. When he is appealing to a larger audience than that of the college lecture-room, it might be better to run the risk of occasional obscurity than to spend time in the repetition of commonplaces.

J. BONAR,

Beiträge zur Geschichte der politischen Ideen und der Regierungspraxis.

VON GOTTFRIED KOCH. II. *Demokratie und Konstitution (1750-1791).*

(Berlin: R. Gaertner. 1896.)

THE first part of this work was noticed in the ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW for October 1893. In the preface to this second instalment the author explains that his subject is becoming more and more restricted to a history of 'constitutionalism.' The second part is limited to an account of constitutional theory and fact in France, England, and North America in the latter half of last century. The influence of these theories and facts upon other countries is reserved for subsequent discussion. The third part is intended to describe the constitutional development in France and England, and the introduction of new constitutions in Europe and America down to 1848. The fourth part is to deal specially with Germany and to bring the history of 'constitutionalism' down to the present time.

The first two chapters of Part II treat of France under Louis XV. The third chapter gives an account of the democratic theories of Rousseau, which is on the whole sound and accurate, though the title 'Begründung der Demokratie durch Rousseau' involves an exaggeration which the author himself contradicts in his account of the American colonies (p. 94). It is a misstatement of Hobbes's doctrine to say, as Dr. Koch does (p. 84), that sovereignty necessarily resides in one person. The crowned figure on Hobbes's frontispiece may indicate Hobbes's preference; but Rousseau's sovereign people would be one of the forms of sovereignty recognised as theoretically possible by Hobbes. Chapter IV gives a sketch of English politics under George III. On p. 64 *note* the author refers to 'Gray's berühmte Ode an ein deserted village.' Chapter V deals with the 'canonisation of the English constitution' in the writings of Blackstone, 'Junius,' Burke, and De Lolme. The next three chapters are concerned with the origin of the constitution of the American colonies, the emancipation of the colonies from England, and the constitution of the United States. Chapter IX returns to France—under Louis XVI, 'Reform or Revolution?' Chapter X treats of political ideas in France before the revolution, and Chapter XI of the constitution of 1791. The volume, like its predecessor, is a laborious compilation; but there does not seem to be much freshness of insight in the treatment of facts or theories, or much art in the grouping.

D. G. RITCHIE.

The Mission of St. Augustine to England according to the Original Documents, being a Handbook for the Thirteenth Centenary. Edited by ARTHUR JAMES MASON, D.D., Canon of Canterbury and Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. (Cambridge: at the University Press. 1897.)

DR. MASON, in producing this interesting volume, has acted upon the instructions of the late archbishop of Canterbury, who desired to have put forth a complete collection of authentic documents bearing upon Augustine's coming, with 'investigations on the spot geographic and hydrographic,' and essays 'showing the real bearing of the events on later controversy.' Dr. Benson considered that such a book 'would place