

carries out the aim of the author, namely to tell what a modern police department has done and can do to prevent crime. Colonel Woods is well qualified to speak on this subject after four years of progressive work as police commissioner of New York City.

The book of nine chapters is a very brief sketch on the police department's relation to crime. It begins with a much needed explanation of the limitations of conventional police methods; a chapter, which, coupled with the one following on educating the public, if read generally, would do much toward helping communities judge intelligently of the effectiveness of their police departments.

Among the causes of crime discussed are poverty, mental defectives and drink and drugs, under each of which a series of typical cases, drawn from the experiences of the author, are presented. The chapters on convicts and juvenile delinquency relate also by specific instances what the New York police department has tried to do in the matter of preventing the convict from going back to his old life and in guiding aright youngsters in danger of becoming launched upon a career of crime.

While the subject matter is discussed with an absence of technical terms, statistical data and other evidences of profundity, the book has a distinct value as an introduction to a more thorough study of causes of crime and crime prevention. Its easy, colloquial style is an asset because the book is quickly and easily read and if read arouses interest.

ARCH MANDEL.

Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research,
January 4, 1919.

*

THE RESULTS OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN MASSACHUSETTS. By Edmond Earle Lincoln. (Hart, Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays. XXVII.) Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1918. Pp. XX+484. \$3.00.

It is interesting to contrast this carefully prepared study with the frankly polemical book by A. M. Todd,¹ reviewed

¹ See Vol. VIII, p. 77.

in the January issue. Mr. Lincoln, who served as expert in charge of the 1917 census of central electric light and power stations in the United States, is decidedly conservative while Mr. Todd makes his appeal frankly on partisan grounds and endeavors to win over the reader. Mr. Lincoln aims to "command the full confidence of the public" and claims that he is "wholly impartial, holding no brief for either side."

The book compares some thirty odd municipal electric lighting plants with the "most nearly comparable" private plants and endeavors to furnish an accurate and impartial study of the technical, financial, historical and developmental aspects of their operation. As to impartiality, however, the author does not hesitate to leave loopholes of escape for the hardened opponent of public ownership, for he says: "It must also be recalled. . . that . . . public business has been compared with private business *at its worst* in the state, from which fact the reader is at liberty to draw what inferences he may choose."

There is a number of chapters of painstaking analysis of financial and statistical matters which apparently leave no stone unturned. Conclusions are given in chapter XIV, and it is here that we advise the reader to "proceed with caution." After the statement quoted in the preceding paragraph we come upon others of a similar nature: "In the first place, it appears that the conditions under which the municipal generating plants are operating, both natural and artificial, are more favorable to success," but their history does not "indicate that they have in general been instrumental in promoting the higher industrial development here found."

Further: "When the pragmatic test is applied, it becomes evident that, from the physical, financial, and developmental point of view, when due allowances have been made, this group of public plants (Holyoke excepted) have, in the more important respects, usually lagged somewhat behind the private plants studied." Also: "They seem not to be serving their

more favorable territory so adequately as are the latter." Even though the public plants "have recently, for the most part, been doing reasonably well," this condition is attributed to "over-conservatism rather than to superior efficiency."

The tale goes on in similar vein with references to "politics" and "graft" which, "in at least one case," were "disgusting beyond belief," while as to private plants it is the writer's opinion that although "there may have been some mismanagement and even exploitation in the past in one or two cases, there seems to be little real ground for complaint at present." That the public plants are reasonably successful would seem to be shown by the author's statement that "a good share of their success is due to the fact that they are dependent upon private enterprise for that portion of the business which is most difficult to be handled by public officials," and he assures us that "all credit is due them . . . inasmuch as they have been rendering, at a comparatively low cost, service which would in many cases have been difficult if not impossible to secure from private concerns." But notwithstanding this record it is the author's opinion that in Massachusetts at present "there is no reason whatever why a municipality should invest in an electric plant."

DORSEY W. HYDE, JR.

*

THE A B C OF EXHIBIT PLANNING. By Evart G. Routzahn and Mary Swain Routzahn. (Survey and Exhibit Series, edited by Shelby M. Harrison. XIV). Pp. 234. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1918. \$1.50.

The value of story-telling by pictures is generally recognized to-day by members of the publishing and advertising professions and the movement for graphic presentation of fact information has long since extended to the field of civic and social endeavor. Particularly within the past decade there have been interesting attempts to present community problems of health, sanitation, housing, and moral welfare by means of exhibits, lantern

slides and motion pictures. In this book, for the first time, there is presented an authoritative exposition of present-day means and methods for driving home community problems—and the remedy—by means of exhibits. Well qualified by personal experience in exhibit work, Mr. and Mrs. Routzahn have compiled a valuable record of their own experience together with the general conclusions which they have derived therefrom.

The general scope of the book is outlined in the second chapter, which emphasizes the necessity of "having a plan," a single, definite purpose, and that in working out the graphic expression thereof, full and painstaking consideration must be given to the type of audience it is desired to reach and impress. The general method to be adopted is next considered; then the content of the exhibit; and finally the exhibit forms to be employed and their arrangement in the exhibit headquarters. Special attention is given to the need for interpreting the exhibit after it is installed, including printed directions, pamphlet literature, lecturers, "explainers" and the like. Further preparation and interpretation should be obtained through a well-planned campaign of newspaper publicity. The preliminary work of organizing the forces responsible for the exhibit and directing the actual construction is also given special emphasis. The cost feature and the distribution of the expenses is a problem demanding careful consideration if the exhibit is to be successfully conducted. After the exhibit has been shown, and the public awakened to some sense of the importance of the subject involved, it is important that an effort be made to clinch this favorable impression and bring about a desire for remedial action.

The principles and rules of action laid down along the lines above indicated are clearly expressed and reinforced with a goodly number of illustrative photographs, diagrams and charts. Of particular interest are the photographic examples of good and bad exhibit panels. Towards the end of the book there are presented an instructive plan for a state campaign centering around a traveling exhibit, and