Concerning Mr. Dunn's report which was presented by Mr. Weil, the executive committee was authorized to make the appropriation asked for by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Woodruff reported at length from the committee on municipal program, reciting the fact that Professor Goodnow was going to China, Mr. Guthrie

on a foreign mission, and that Dr. Rowe was already in Panama, and that Mr. Deming has been compelled to resign on account of the pressure of work incident to his recent ill health. The following names were suggested for the vacancies: Laurence A. Tanzer, Robert Treat Paine, Delos F. Wilcox, J. W. S. Peters, A. Leo Weil.

BOOK REVIEWS

OLD TOWNS AND NEW NEEDS: ALSO THE TOWN EXTENSION PLAN. By Paul Waterhouse and Raymond Unwin. The Manchester University Press, 1912. New York: Longmans, Green and Company; 36 cents.

This little volume embraces the two Warburton lectures delivered at the University of Manchester in 1912 by acknowledged experts in city planning. The first is a sort of analysis of the philosophy of the subject—an inquiry whether there can be anything like a definite and scientific method in this new field of municipal endeavor. The conclusion seems to be negative: large and generous plans for old and well established towns are of little value, because the perpetual flux in town development defeats the best laid schemes. The perfect plan of one generation—witness Sir Christopher Wren's project for rebuilding London—may be rendered obsolete or even a positive hindrance by the unforeseen developments of the next. The smaller urban units which are absorbed into growing metropolitan areas are usually changed so radically by their new associations that the original plotting is ill-suited to the new needs; and so on. But Mr. Waterhouse does not preach the gospel of despair, in spite of this cold water thrown upon millennial aspirations. On the contrary he says many pertinent, helpful, and eminently practical things about meeting the urgent difficulties of

congested traffic; and at every turn he puts up timely warnings for those who would rush in with new diagrams on white paper before analyzing their problems properly.

Mr. Unwin looks upon a larger horizon, and considers such radical matters as land taxation and German ways of doing things. He is more discursive than Mr. Waterhouse and prefers to touch many points rather than to prove a general thesis. He criticises English methods of raising local revenues from rates, speaks of planning in Düsseldorf, Cologne, and Chicago, describes Mr. Howard's garden city idea, shows how many great things have been wrought to make cities more convenient and inviting, explains what can be done under the recent English town planning act, and by much ingenious figuring fain would demonstrate that landlords will be just as prosperous and happy under the new law as they were before. This is really the great problem before English-speaking town planners: how to make the city beautiful and leave the princely revenues of ground landlords undisturbed. They are in the position of those estimable gentlemen who labored to convince Charles I that the conduct of the Long Parliament (until 1649 of course) was compatible with his enjoyment of full royal prerogatives.

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