

rierson has a fertile mind, and has thought widely, deeply and clearly upon the problems of his generation; his style is always clear and vigorous, and often elegant. He is one of the notable thinkers and writers of the generation now passing from the stage; and while his general points of view have been in the main what we should consider wrong, he added not a little to the intellectual life of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

C. S. GARDNER.

**Socialists at Work.** By Robert W. Hunter, author of "Poetry", etc. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1908. Price \$1.50.

**The Spiritual Significance of Modern Socialism.** By John Spargo, author of "The Bitter Cry of the Children", etc. B. W. Huebsch, New York, 1908.

We commend these volumes to any one who wishes to keep closely in touch with the socialistic movement—which every intelligent man ought to do.

The work by Mr. Hunter gives an elaborate, but exceedingly interesting and illuminating, account of the actual status of the movement in all lands, but particularly in Europe. It details the growth and present strength of the Socialist party in all the leading countries of the world; sets forth at length their platforms; shows the trend of socialistic thought; and sums up the results in legislation already achieved, directly or indirectly, by these aggressive agitators and advocates of a new social order. Of course it is written by an ardent believer in Socialism, and the picture may be overdrawn, but one cannot go through these pages without being profoundly impressed by the vigor, aggressive vitality, enthusiasm and gathering might of this world-wide movement. It is a movement felt in all progressive countries, assuming the form of a powerful and growing political party in continental Europe, particularly in Germany and France, and in England and America making itself felt by a modification of the policies of the two great parties rather than by crystalizing into a separate great party. But no well-informed man can deny that in one way or another it is advancing everywhere.

In fact, one reading the literature of this subject receives the distinct impression that this movement has already reached the stage at which the old order has been thrown upon the defensive. And to one who is acquainted with the general laws of social processes, this indication is ominous.

In the booklet by Mr. Spargo, the interpretation of the spiritual significance of this movement is attempted. His idea of spirituality seems to be that of Matthew Arnold—"morality touched with emotion." He admits that at first socialism was anti-religious; but he declares that now its anti-religious attitude has been given up; that it takes no position at all as to the religious interpretation of life and the universe, but is perfectly friendly toward religious beliefs—though some socialists still maintain the attitude of antagonism. He insists, however, on the difference between "churchianity" and Christianity, and declares that the religious life is impossible under capitalism.

His main contention is that socialism is to-day the fountain of the highest ethical enthusiasm and sets before men the highest ethical ideal, and would mean the setting free of the essential spirit of Christianity and the unshackling of the intellectual life.

He repudiates the charge that socialism seeks to abolish the family, although admitting that in the earlier and cruder days of the movement there was some justification for the charge.

By all means, read the books if you wish to hear what the sanest of the socialists have to say in behalf of their program.

C. S. GARDNER.

**The Age and Its Needs.** As Related to the Work of the American Baptist Publication Society. Address at Oklahoma City, 1908. By W. C. Bitting, D.D. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. Pages 29. Price 10 cents.

A fitting theme for a thrilling address, presented in an attractive pamphlet. The main topic is the Relation of Literature to Life. Literature expresses, records, interprets, influences and protects life.

W. O. CARVER.