to safeguard, if not their morals, at any rate their health by compulsory medical treatment. In some instances, at least, it is encouraging to know that the very ideals for which the war was fought helped many a man—and sometimes whole units—to keep himself clean who under different conditions might have gone wrong.

F. M. CROUCH.

✱

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL. By William Bennett Munro, Professor of Municipal Government in Harvard University. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1919. 648 p. \$2.75.

Through his well-known books on municipal government, Professor Munro has established a reputation as one of the foremost authorities in that field. This prestige he now extends to the whole field of American government by the publication of a volume which is in many respects the best work of the kind available. Though primarily a college text-book, it presents "a general survey of the principles and practice of American government" which should appeal strongly to the general reader. The treatment is lucid and non-technical without being either superficial or "popular."

The author endeavors, as he states in the preface, "not only to explain the form and functions of the American political system, but to indicate the origin and purpose of the various institutions, to show how they have been developed by law or usage, to discuss their present-day workings, merits and defects, and to contrast the political institutions of the United States with analogous institutions in other lands." It is needless to say that even in these 648 meaty pages little space is devoted to comparative government and relatively little to merits and defects. It would require two such volumes to do much more than describe the institutions of federal, state and local government, with some attention to their origin.

Naturally in covering so broad a field many important topics have to be passed over with bare mention. In many cases, however, further sources of information are cited in the footnotes. It is but natural, also, in dealing with so wide a range of topics that misstatements in matters of detail should have crept in. It might be pointed out, for instance, that New York State offers an example of the legislative budget rather than of

the "joint budget" system, while Massachusetts, under a law which went into effect July 1, 1918, instead of being the chief exponent of the legislative budget, actually has an executive budget. Exception might also be taken to Professor Munro's analysis of types of budget-making machinery.

C. C. WILLIAMSON.

✱

THE FOOD CRISIS AND AMERICANISM. By William Stull. New York: MacMillan Co. \$1.25.

The author wrote this book apparently to call attention to his conclusions that mortgages on American farms are increasing in number and in amount in greater proportion than farm assets are increasing; that the yield per acre on American farms is being reduced because fertility is not replaced to the extent that it is taken out; that the supply of labor on American farms is not in proportion to the needs at any time of the year; and that American farmers are growing poorer while feeding the organized laborers of the cities who are becoming better to do, though on wrong principles of economics. Robert Ingersoll once said that if it were true that all of us except a few select Christians were going to hell, it was high time something was being done about it. If the American people could be convinced that the situation on American farms is as bad as this author says it is, they would stop all else to see that something was done about it. The ends the author would accomplish are laudable. But if his book were the only means to attain those ends little indeed would be done. The book is replete with statements that are too inclusive to have substantiation in fact: "The chief opposition to Chinese labor comes from 'idlers' and organized labor" (p. 17); "No man can properly till eighty acres of land" (p. 18). Such is typical of the "factual" statements that form the background of the author's plea for help and that quickly. The book is neither a good argument in style nor does it entice to conclusions because of its facts. On the contrary it closes the mind of those informed, because of its inaccuracies.

CLYDE L. KING.

✱

DEMOCRACY v. AUTOCRACY. By Karl Geiser. D. C. Heath. 94 p.

In this little volume Professor Geiser undertakes in a practical way to elucidate the mean-

ing of "making the world safe for democracy" by giving, in very brief compass, a description of typical autocracies and democracies, including the governments of America, England, France, Italy, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium and Brazil.

The book is evidently intended as a guide to a busy general reader and it will doubtless serve that purpose well, if one is careful to bear in

mind that much of the treatment, particularly that involving Germany and Austria-Hungary, is already out of date.

If there is fault to be found, it should perhaps be said that more effort might have been made to measure up the actual with the formal government and that more emphasis might have been laid on economic factors.

H. S. GILBERTSON.

II. REVIEWS OF REPORTS

The Immigrant Publication Society, Inc.,¹ is a patriotic and educational organization founded by its present director, John Foster Carr. Its purpose is to give the immigrant practical guidance in the new land, as well as accurate information about the opportunities of American life—especially agricultural life; to help him to learn English and to give him the American education he needs and often desires; and to prepare him for intelligent and patriotic citizenship. Its work is distinctive in this: All its publications have been prepared with the close co-operation of men and women who have themselves been immigrants. This has assured accuracy in dealing with facts and an unusually sympathetic approach to the foreign-born. It has resulted in winning cordial support from all the different national groups for which work has so far been undertaken. Membership carries with it a consulting privilege, as well as a right to the society's publications.

Mr. Carr's work began in the preparation, at the suggestion of the Italian government, of an *Immigrant's Guide to the United States*. This has also been published in Polish and Yiddish—the latter with a separate English translation—with careful adaptations to the greatly differing needs of these two nationalities. Hundreds of requests have been received for the publication of this little book in twenty-six other languages.

The popularity of these books among the foreign-born quickly secured the interest of the libraries in the work; and their requests for help and advice for library work with the foreign-born led to the preparation of *Immigrant and Library: Italian Helps*. This was based upon the practice of the leading popular libraries of Italy and upon the experience with Italians of many important libraries in the United States, and was published in co-operation with the publishing board of the American Library Association.

It provides a carefully chosen and annotated list of books, the choice ranging from the latest and simplest to the great works of Italian literature. There are books about the United States, a generous selection of fiction, poetry, drama, translations of world classics. Stress is laid on the useful and practical, and there is a good selection of simple books on science, the trades, art, music. This is to be followed by a similar manual for Yiddish and Hebrew and for other languages.

The next book published by the society was a text-book on learning English, written by a former immigrant: *Foreigner's Guide to English*, by Azniv Beshgeturian. A more advanced book in English followed: *Makers of America*, by Emma Lilian Dana. In this, the two great constructive periods of American history and the theory of American democracy are covered in short biographies, stirringly written, of Franklin, Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

More recently, the general need of librarians, teachers and social workers for advice in their work with immigrants has led to the publication of an informal series of booklets which includes: *Bridging the Gulf*, on work with Russian Jews in New York; *Winning Friends and Citizens for America*; *Work with Poles, Bohemians and Slovaks* in Cleveland; a third, *Exploring a Neighborhood*, is a community survey of a new sort, dealing with a city foreign colony. A *Guide to Citizenship*, popular and appealing, and a history of the United States are in preparation.

The publications of the society are now being used by nearly eight hundred American public libraries, by a growing number of progressive schools and by a considerable variety of patriotic, religious and industrial organizations. A more effective commendation of them is their enthusiastic acceptance and use by those for whom they were prepared—the immigrants.

As the society has sought the collaboration of

¹241 Fifth Avenue, New York City.