whole lacks in unity and coherence. No clear relation is shown between the criticism of irresponsible government and spoils politics and the rather technical discussions of such matters as efficiency records. The writers of the various articles do not seem to have any distinct conception of a common purpose; though Professor Beard in his article on "Training for efficient public service" points out, what might well have been made more emphatically the keynote to the whole number, that the great problem of government in this country is the reconciliation of liberty and efficiency.

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THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT. By David Jayne Hill. New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 287 pp.

Dr. Hill's book is a discussion of the interrelations of the state, the law and the citizen—three concepts that are "fundamental to the realization of any high ideal of human society." He maintains that there is no proper sanction for unlimited sovereignty but that government is instituted primarily for the protection of the individual rights of life, liberty and property. Therefore, these rights must control government, not be controlled by it. The author denies the validity of the theory of absolutism no less when power is exercised by the majority than when it is exercised by a monarch. The constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the several commonwealths are the American expression of the "law of mutual obligation," which is the basis of the democratic state and the unique power of the American judiciary to declare statutes void when they are found to be inconsistent with this fundamental law, is the guaranty of constitutional democracy.

Dr. Hill regards the development of the citizen, whose charter of liberties and certificate of existence the constitution is, as America's chief contribution to political science. He sees in all efforts to make the amendment of the federal constitution easy, or to blur over or remove the dis-

inction between statutory and constitutional law, or to deprive the courts of the power to declare statutes unconstitutional, a menace to freedom and a tendency to turn back toward absolutism. Although Dr. Hill is obviously an exponent of the political philosophy of the conservative group which includes such men as William Barnes, Nicholas Murray Butler, William Howard Taft and many others, a radical can read his book without finding so very much to disagree with in it and can lay it down with the impression that the distinguished author's polemics are for the most part directed against men of straw. As an exposition of conservative American political philosophy, the book stimulates and invigorates thought. As an attack upon the practical program of the radicals in this country, except as to a relatively few extremists, the book has very little significance.

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THE VOTER IN COMMAND. By J. Albert Stowe. Newark, N. J.: The Upward Society. 62 pp.

This little brochure is an analysis of the "Walsh act," so-called, under which commission government has been made available for the cities of New Jersey which adopt it. The author criticizes the referendum provisions of the act on the theory that they are unworkable. He thinks that the referendum is of much greater practical importance than either the initiative or the recall, but maintains that ten days is altogether too short a time to be allowed for the filing of referendum petitions. The booklet is local to New Jersey, although it has a wider interest for the illustrative material it supplies to the general discussion of commission government and direct legislation.

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY RULE. By Edward Elliot. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Press. \$1.25 net.

The purpose of this volume, according to its preface, is to point out the fact