

Property and Contract in Their Relations to the Distribution of Wealth. By Richard T. Ely, Ph. D., LL. D., Prof. of Political Economy in the University of Wisconsin. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1914. 2 vols. 995 pp. \$4.00.

Professor Ely in this voluminous work goes into certain aspects of the subject quite fully, perhaps too fully or expansively, and has accumulated here a vast fund of information accompanied by many valuable interpretations. Not the least valuable parts of the book are the "notes and references" appended to the several chapters. Another notable excellence is the remarkably lucid and easy style. Though in much of the book the author is discussing matters of a more or less technical nature.

There are, however, some defects that should be noted. In the first place, more attention should have been given to the historical aspects of the subject, the development of the concept of property in former stages of society. This might have been done within the present proportions of the book if, in the second place, there had been more condensation and a better logical arrangement of the matter. It is not easy to discover any logical clue to the order of the discussion.

The most serious fault, however, is that the author seems to be timid and entirely too cautious, almost nervously anxious lest he should in following his premises to their logical conclusion expose himself to a charge of economic heresy. This is just a general impression which the book makes, a certain felt chill in the air. He succeeds in maintaining his economic orthodoxy, but it seems to require a good deal of labor to do it.

But all adverse criticisms aside, I have found the book both interesting and, in many points, illuminating. One who wishes to make a study of this great problem can hardly dispense with it.

C. S. GARDNER.

Societal Evolution: A Study of the Evolutionary Basis of the Science of Society. By Albert Galloway Keller, Prof. of the Science of Society, in Yale University. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1915. 338 pp. \$1.50.

Prof Keller was a student of the late W. G. Sumner of Yale; and the whole discussion is based upon Sumner's doctrine of the