

It contains nothing on American furnaces; nor on garbage disposal by reduction, with recovery of grease and fertilizer base, the process used by a number of the largest American cities. All these phases of refuse disposal were treated by Morse's "The Collection and Disposal of Municipal Waste" (1908).

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THE ORTHOCRATIC STATE. By John S. Crosby. New York: Sturgis & Walton Co. \$1.00.

There has appeared from the press of Sturgis and Walton a book with the suggestive title "The Orthocratic State." Its author, John S. Crosby, a native of Maine, who emigrated in the early seventies to Missouri and Kansas, later and until his death a citizen of New York, where he lent the aid of a winning personality and eloquent voice to many worthy causes, seeks therein to determine the sanction, the proper functions and limitations of the state, and to ascertain "the unchanging principles of civics and government." His self-imposed task will seem to many a quixotic quest, specially to those who look on government and its offspring, statute law, as the be-all, cure-all and end-all here. To such persons the only limit to government is the extent of its power.

Mr. Crosby grew up in a period when there still lingered a faint belief in those exploded fallacies, once known to the fathers as natural and human rights. Those of us who are very wise now know that there are no such things, though they helped to sustain the spirit of the republic for more than a century.

"The Orthocratic State" is predicated on the assumption that the function of the state is to give effect to and strengthen such rights, not to contravene or abolish them, when such action seems to the immature thought of the time to lead to the higher good. "Natural, human rights," said Mr. Crosby, "are to the science of conduct and hence to the science of government, what the axioms of mathematics are to the science of quantity."

Society and the state are considered as separate entities and their mutual relations

illustrated: "Functions of government" and the "Abuses of civil power" are the titles of the chapters dealing with what governments should and should not do. The final chapter, devoted to civic problems, contains the author's solution of questions perplexing society.

The outstanding theory which distinguishes this book from many dealing with kindred subjects, is this examination and denunciation of the usurped power of the state to create artificial persons known as corporations. These Frankensteins seem to Mr. Crosby, second only to the denial of human rights in land, the source of most of our modern evils. Although many will not agree with him, his examination of the subject is sane and powerful and will repay a careful reading by those who would like to know the most that can be said upon that side of the case.

He points out that the corporation was originally devised for the purpose of clothing individuals with "civil authority to perform some apparently public service which did not seem to have been adequately provided for in the ordinary machinery of government." From this he traces the stages by which charters for all sorts of purposes have come to be had for the asking, so freely that they are thought to be no longer privileges; he shows that the federal supreme court has declared the right of incorporation to be a privilege which may be taxed; and he believes that such unnatural aggregations have tended to intensify the extremes of wealth and poverty, which have come to be so marked a feature of our modern life. The philosophy of the book is the reverse of socialistic. It will furnish many arguments to those who distrust the promises and methods of that well-meaning but nebulous ideal.

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ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE WAR. By Edwin J. Clapp. Yale University Press.

One of the incidental horrors of the war—affecting especially neutrals—is the output of books about the war. It is to be regretted that the imprint of a