

The actual fire waste of the country is therefore far beyond the amount paid in the form of insurance losses.

The reasons for an American per capita fire waste ten times that of western Europe are not difficult to find. Better building codes and more strict enforcement of the law; the more general use of brick, stone, and cement in construction, partly on account of the scarcity and high cost of wood; the lower height and smaller floor space of buildings; and the silent influence of long established habits of caution, are some of the advantages which account for the lower unit cost of fire waste in Europe. The engineering and actuarial data regarding fire waste, fire prevention, and fire protection in this country until recently have been almost entirely in the hands of the fire insurance interests. Obviously, as the premiums paid for insurance are so fixed as to cover the entire loss through fires as well as the expense and profits of the business, it has not been to the business interest of fire insurance men to promote a broad program for reducing fire waste.

The present volume gathers up and puts into available form much of the data that has recently been developed by independent agencies for the study and prevention of fire waste. In spite of certain regrettable defects in typography and style, the material here collected has very definite value to the student of fire prevention. In a series of about sixty chapters on important aspects of building construction, protection and occupancy, the writer summarizes, with considerable force and with frequent illustration and diagram, the principles and practices underlying modern fire prevention.

Such factors of building construction as fire walls, fire doors, shafts and belt holes, fire shutters, fire escapes and exits are treated in a simple, direct, and helpful way.

In the treatment of equipment for the proper protection of buildings, emphasis is placed upon the automatic sprink-

ler, the automatic alarm, stand pipes, chemical extinguishers, fire pails, and systematic inspection.

The dangers of bad housekeeping and occupancy occasioned by refuse-filled cellars, halls, and adjacent yards, unsafe gas jets and engines, uncovered lights and defective flues; the effectiveness of many simple precautions, such as fire drills, periodic cleaning-up and systematic inspection, receive proper attention in several brief chapters.

It is regrettable that page references were not inserted in the table of contents to enable the reader to refer quickly to the several chapters. This defect is partly overcome by the references contained in the index; but the subject matter of fire prevention is so largely unfamiliar to most readers that the chapter headings rather than the specific topics contained in the index must be the main guides. The very large amount of recent, practical data makes the book an invaluable one to any beginner in the science of fire prevention and will doubtless prove of much interest and value to more advanced students when supplemented by such technical engineering data as may be obtained from the current publications of the National Fire Protective Association of Boston and the Underwriters Laboratories of Chicago.

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MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS. By Luther Halsey Gulick, and Leonard P. Ayres. Revised and reprinted. New York Survey Associates, 1913, pp. xx, 224; \$1.50.

A careful and exhaustive statement of the purpose of medical inspection, its cost, its results, its methods, and some of the problems of its administration. The authors of the book have made it a practical manual for the guidance of school authorities and teachers in establishing such inspection by detailed accounts of methods used in many cities and numerous forms of reports and rec-

ords. A chapter is devoted to the history and present status of the work in this country. During the past few years medical inspection has been made a part of the school activities in nearly half of the cities of the United States. Twenty states now provide for it by statute; 443 of the cities of this country have systems of medical inspection. Most of these employ school physicians and many of them school nurses.

New laws compelling school attendance of all children have brought into the schools many children who are unable to keep up with others of the same age. Medical inspection has shown that this backwardness is intimately connected with physical defects, and that the large sums spent annually on carrying these children over the work of a year for the second time could be made much less by simple measures for correcting these defects.

The work takes the form of school inspections with whose results the parents are made acquainted. In some cities the school physician invites consultation. In some free hospital treatment and clinics are available. The employment of school nurses has been undertaken in many cities and their work is coming to be recognized as one of the most important factors in linking school and home, especially in those sections of the large cities that have a foreign population. Through school nurses the effectiveness of inspection is increased many times.

Throughout the book the writers have confined themselves to statements of actual experience and have not made it a record of individual views. Clear statement and well selected material make the volume exceedingly valuable.

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STATUTE LAW MAKING IN THE UNITED STATES. By Chester Lloyd Jones. Boston: The Boston Book Company. 327 pp.

Only in recent years has any attention been given to the form of statutes in the

United States, and this work of Professor Jones should prove a handy aid to the legislator. The second or principal part is devoted to the drafting of bills, the matter in which practical advice is most needed. The first part considers constitutional limitations, and justly criticises their increasing bulk in the newer constitutions of the western states; the third part, "Legislative Expedients," considers methods of improving the form of bills and the legislative sanction to laws. Professor Jones contemplates the increase of statute making in years to come, an opinion which, except as to merely administrative law, some students may not be inclined to agree with, especially in view of the increasing frequency of the popular referendum: "The importance of statute law in the life of every modern nation will continue to increase. A dynamic civilization necessitates easy and rapid adjustment of law to changing economic conditions. Law evolved by custom alone cannot keep up with the developments of our modern life, and the state must resort to new rules made to fit new conditions. In all countries law—even statute law—must as a rule follow, not lead, economic and social advance" (p. 306). Accepting this to be the fact, such work as that of the present author will be the more needed.

On page 7 we notice many errors in the dates given for the original constitutions of the states, our author having relied upon Thorpe's *American Charters, Constitutions and Organic Laws*, instead of seeking the original sources. Thus, if we are correctly informed, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia adopted constitutions in 1776; Georgia and New York in 1777; it is true that the constitution of South Carolina was held to be but an ordinary statute. Some others of these were brief, and some were never submitted to the people. Nevertheless, for the sake of historical accuracy, correction should be made. On pages 10-11 is a most interesting tabulation of the date and period of legislative sessions,