

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 Franksteins 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

university press should not at least be an *imprimatur* as to the scholarly character of a book. Professor Clapp's book represents the character of publication which justifies the cynical comment "a professor is known by the number of books he writes."

The book is a curious mixture of amateur international law, stock ticker gossip and clipping bureau philosophy. An appendix of official documents, including a letter of Jefferson to Pinckney in 1793, neither adds to or detracts from the merits of the book.

Professor Clapp has confused specific trade problems with economic aspects—it is significant that there is no serious attempt to discuss banking, exchange or monetary problems. The distinctly pro-German attitude, coupled with slurring references to British policies, deprives the book of judicial tone.

The "economic" tone of the book no less than its general point of view is indicated by the following extracts:

Pp. 15-16. "The most striking circumstances (*sic*) in this extraordinary situation is the fact that Great Britain has at no time maintained a genuine blockade."

P. 96. "In all British procedure regarding us there is nothing more annoying than the apparent assumption that we can be silenced by the money argument."

P. 290. "How the war comes out is none of a neutral's affairs. Our business as a nation is to look after our own interests."

P. 288. "May not Britain be asking us to drive German genius farther than our interests can follow?"

P. 307. "Therefore, neither Great Britain nor any other nation of the world could blame us if we laid an embargo upon the exportation of arms for the purpose of enforcing our right to trade unhindered with Germany and the neutral nations of Europe, in all but contraband (as defined in a reasonable contraband list) with German destination."

Perhaps Professor Clapp's attitude may be accounted for by the fact that he is also the author of a book "The Port of Hamburg, 12 mo., cloth binding, gilt top, 220 pages, 19 illustrations, price \$1.50 net."

ALBERT DE ROODE.

New York.

THE LIFE OF A CITIZEN. By J. Augustus Johnson. New York: The Vail—Ballou Press. 292 pp.

In our democracy the most striking feature is the success of various reform movements—political and social—against entrenched and seemingly impregnable forces. Their success is not due to the prominence of the publicly-acclaimed leaders, nor yet to the loyal support given by the electorate. In each reform there are groups of men—sometimes only one man—earnestly, ingeniously and quietly giving their best, with no lust for publicity or hope of reward.

The philosopher in *Ecclesiastes* evidently had this type of man in mind when he wrote: "The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools."

Written for the inspiration of his descendants, and published by one of those descendants as a most fitting monument, the simple and unaffected autobiography of J. Augustus Johnson gives an insight into the type of man which helps to make our democracy a spiritual and united government rather than a selfish clamorous tribe.

Spending his early years abroad in missionary work, Mr. Johnson returned to this country to find it virtually a new land. "To me it was a new world," he records. "Columbus could not have been more surprised when he discovered America." Upon the new problems he entered quietly and fearlessly, built up a successful and aggressive law practice and gave fully of himself to the work of civil service reform, municipal reform, and such movements as the Legal aid society, the Children's aid society and the American seamen's friend society.

It is a record of a useful and unselfish life, worth reading and remembering. The style has the charm of intimacy natural to a book of which the author says: "I have written of what I remembered for such use as my children may wish, as they gather around their firesides and tell tales of a garrulous grandfather."

ALBERT DE ROODE.