

LEWIS, WILLIAM Y. Tram, bus,—or "continuous transit." (*Municipal Journal*, London, February 7, 1913, p. 175-177.)

The London traffic problem having become a political question, the literature on the subject has grown. The above paper while not long, gives a good résumé of the situation.

TRAFFIC on streets and roads. Proposed standard method for recording

and comparisons. (*American City*, December, 1912, p. 553-559.)

#### Water Supply

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia. Board of water works trustees. First annual report for 1912. 38 p., 21 plates. 8°.

Report for the first year of municipal ownership. It summarizes the municipalization of the plant and the organization of the new board.

### BOOK REVIEWS

THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN CITIES. By William Bennett Munro, Ph.D., LL.B. New York: The Macmillan Company.

AMERICAN CITY GOVERNMENT. By Charles A. Beard. New York: The Century Company.

These two volumes form important additions to the already extensive literature on municipal affairs in this country. And the scope and variety of the subject is well illustrated by noting that these books not only supply such information not hitherto available, but also, while bearing similar titles, offer marked contrasts to each other in the topics discussed, in their method of treatment and in their literary style.

Professor Munro uses the term government in contrast to administration, and states that his aim is to describe the machinery or framework of municipal organization. In fact he does more than analyze the anatomical structure; and discusses also what President Lowell calls the physiology—and also the pathology—of the principal organs of municipal government. After introductory chapters on municipal development and the social structure of the city, he treats of the legal position and powers of cities, municipal politics, the council, the mayor, the principles of administrative organization, commission government, direct legislation and municipal reform. These topics are discussed with more thoroughness than in any other work covering the whole of this field; and the

presentation throughout bears the stamp of the scientific observer.

While the work thus deals with both the constitution and procedure of the political organism, it does so as a biologist would analyze the structure and conduct of plants and animals, without considering the external results of these activities in relation to economic and social problems. This limitation is however recognized by the author; and another volume on administration is promised to present this phase of the subject.

Professor Beard's book from one point of view has a broader scope, but in other respects is more limited. The distinctively political phases are treated briefly in four chapters; and the greater part of the volume discusses the economic and social problems of the modern city, with chapters on such topics as finances, police control, public utilities, public health, education and city planning. Moreover as indicated in the subtitle, "a survey of newer tendencies," only the most recent developments in connection with the various topics are discussed. The purpose of the author seems to be to present selective illustrations for the general reader, rather than to give a comprehensive analysis for the more serious student.

The contrast in literary style is not between good and bad—for both authors display distinct literary ability which other writers may envy. It is rather, between distinctive styles, each adapted to the author's general method of treatment. Professor Munro's scientific dis-

cussion is not cumbered with statistics or technical terms; but is presented with the clear and dignified diction of the modern Harvard school of English. Professor Beard's language has a lighter touch, that befits an instructor in the new Pullitzer school of journalism.

From the point of view of the university teacher of municipal government, these books will take a leading place among the works used in connection with courses in this subject; and the differences in content and method make them complementary rather than competing volumes. But neither in itself will be adequate as a suitable text book for a comprehensive and systematic university course.

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THE NEW IMMIGRATION. By Peter Roberts. New York: The Macmillan Company, pp. 386, \$1.60.

The present unsettled condition of southeastern Europe gives an added interest to this book. Since the early eighties immigration into the United States has shifted from northwestern to southeastern Europe introducing into this country masses of new people far removed from American standards and creating a serious task in the work of assimilation. The author is sympathetic in his study of the quality, industrial efficiency, social life and the relation of the new people to the native born population, and his book shows an optimistic vein of belief that the new immigrants need chiefly systematic direction and sympathetic treatment to make them a highly useful asset to the country.

If a line is drawn from the northwestern corner of Minnesota to the southwestern corner of Illinois and then eastward to the Atlantic, passing between the cities of Washington and Baltimore, we cut off less than one-fifth of the area of the United States but in it is found more than 80 per cent of the new immi-

gration. Thirty-two of the fifty cities of 100,000 or more population in the United States are found in this territory and the new aliens are found in every city of the angle. These cities are the hives whence industrial and manufactured products are sent in a continuous stream to enrich this and other nations, and the one great factor that has made possible the industrial development of this part of the United States is the inflow of 80 per cent of the new immigration coming to America. The brawn and sinew of the peoples of the Danube, the Carpathian mountains, southern Russia, the Balkan states and the Italian peninsula have been freely drawn upon to man mine, mill, shop, factory and railroad, and never did any civilized nation get an army of more docile, industrious and efficient workers. As the men of the new immigration reside in industrial centers, they can easily be reached, for the remedies for the evils incident to their coming are more available in populous centers than elsewhere. In the cities are to be found the best brains, the highest executive ability and the greatest concentration of the wealth of the nation. These are the tools with which to wage war upon the superstitions and ignorance of the immigrants, the uncleanness, the unsanitary, overcrowded dwellings of the aliens, the helplessness and inefficiency of the foreigners' homes. "Another twenty-five years of conditions too common in congested quarters of the large industrial cities," the author says, "will bring a slum situation that will be a check to progress and a menace to our industrial peace. The best prevention is to cure the present condition of the representatives of the backward races now in the tenements of our cities."

The chapters of the book dealing with the part they play in the industries of the United States, the way they live in the American cities and the manner in which they are treated by the native born are especially interesting.

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