

Introduction to Rural Sociology. By PAUL L. VOGT. D. Appleton and Co., New York. 1917.

This book was written primarily as a text for college students interested in the social problems of small communities. The subject matter is what one would expect in such a book. The physical basis of rural life; the rural population, its movements, its health and its attitudes of mind; farmers' organizations, both social and economic; the established institutions dealing with country life, *e. g.*, the church and the school; and the relation of the village to the open country are the principal topics discussed.

Throughout the book it is very apparent that the author has been at great pains to make his work as accurate and comprehensive as possible. In both respects he has succeeded admirably, and that, too, without becoming tedious. In fact, I think the combination of the essentials of a text with a pleasing exposition will recommend the book to a rather large circle of readers outside of the class room.

A feature of the book especially worthy of notice is the thorough discussion of the relation of the village to the life of the open country. The author fully realizes that there can be no satisfactory development of agencies for the betterment of rural life unless village and farm cooperate and he has expressed this view clearly and convincingly.

No doubt reviewers will always feel that sins of omission are frequent. I am happy to say they are but few in the work under discussion. To my mind the most important omission is the failure to discuss the eugenic problems of the rural population and to give more attention to the natural movements of population due to the varying birth rates and death rates in different groups and in different sections of the nation.

In the numerous suggestions for the improvement of rural life occurring in almost every chapter the author shows sound practical sense. He knows rural communities at first hand. He knows their prejudices, their apathy, their strength and their weaknesses.

One feels that the spirit of the writer would go far towards allaying the suspicion and the hostility so often encountered by those who would help to make the rural community a better place to live.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

NOTE ON A WET CONDENSER SUITABLE FOR CONTINUOUS HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICE

In certain investigations necessitating long continuous production of a fat spark by means of a closed circuit transformer (1 K.W., 110 v. primary, 11,000 v. secondary) it was found that the glass plate condensers usually provided for this purpose repeatedly broke down owing to the heating under continuous performance. It occurred to us to substitute the ordinary glass with some glass having greater heat-resisting properties.

One liter, tall form, lipless "Pyrex" beakers were accordingly covered with tinfoil as carefully as possible, both on the inner and outer surfaces. These were then mounted by placing the edge into a groove in a board and sealing in with rosin. Condensers of this kind were tedious to make, and proved quite a problem to mount securely. The labor involved in producing a set of the required capacity stopped work in this direction.

The final form of condenser which has proved very serviceable for the work in hand was that in which the "Pyrex" glass beakers mentioned above constituted the dielectric, and a nearly saturated solution of common salt constituted the conductor plates. The beakers were filled to within 2.5 cm. of the rim with the solution, and were immersed to a similar depth into the solution contained in an earthen vessel, a 3 gallon crock. The beakers measure 9 cm. in diameter, 19 cm. high, 16.5 cm. effective height, thickness, about 1.2 mm. The twenty beakers used were selected from a stock of about 100 in order to avoid flaws, particularly bubbles. The stock was a little old and therefore probably not as good in evenness of surface and homogeneity of material as that now being manufactured. It was not pos-