

**American City Government: A Survey of Newer Tendencies.** By Charles A. Beard, Associate Professor of Politics in Columbia University. New York: The Century Company, 1912. 420 pages.

In a plain, simple, straight-forward way Professor Beard sets forth the problems of City Government in America at the present time; and discusses in a way thoroughly scientific and illuminating the methods which are now being agitated, and have been adopted by the more progressive cities, for the solution of these problems. The work is a distinct contribution to the subject. The author is a scientific student, and not a faddist. His book is written for the purpose of giving its readers an intelligent comprehension of the actual processes of governing cities, the difficulties involved and the sources or grounds of these difficulties. At the same time, while not an advocate of any specific reform, it is evident that he looks for progress to come by an extension of democracy, that is, by bringing the government more immediately under the control of the people. Along with this movement must go a better education of the democracy and a great simplification of the machinery of city government.

I regard the book as excellent reading, not only for scholars who are moved by a theoretical interest in politics, but also for the practical man who is seeking for information to guide him in civic practice.

C. S. GARDNER.

**Constructive Rural Sociology.** By John M. Gillette, Professor of Sociology, University of North Dakota; with an Introduction by George E. Vincent, President of the University of Minnesota. New York: Sturgis & Walton Company, 1913. 301 pages. \$1.60 net.

The task of rural sociology, according to the author, is to consider country life "in its wholeness and to consider special features with a view to determining their influence upon moral life as a whole." But rural life, while it is a great and distinct section of the general social life, is nevertheless a part of a larger whole, and cannot be adequately understood apart from it. A thorough interpretation of rural life, therefore, requires a knowledge of general sociology. This is fully recognized by the