

public good, a plan very much like the samlag system of Norway. This latter experiment would probably work better at first in the smaller towns than in the cities.

To the mind of the reviewer these suggestions are all ultimately practical. To become immediately practical, we should have to revise our mental attitude on many issues, such as the two-thirds vote, the taxation idea, and the private monopoly conception. Our social mind is set around the "for or against prohibition" point-of-view, and set with some degree of emotion. We should have to unset our minds, which would require a vast amount of propaganda, many times as much as this volume has accomplished.

It is to be regretted the author did not give more consideration to the psychology of alcohol drinking. He quotes a few excellent paragraphs from Professor Patrick's "Psychology of Relaxation." The reviewer is inclined to think that the psychological factors are likely to prove the most important in determining the particular type of temperance reform to be adopted. Closely connected with and indeed a part of this psychological consideration is the question of substitutes for drinking. The author devotes no space to this aspect.

There is something of the mob mind about the present prohibition propaganda, and for this reason, whether we are for or against prohibition, a wide reading of Mr. Koren's book can do nothing but good. At the recent initiative and referendum election held in Oregon, the citizens voted on an amendment permitting the sale and manufacture of 4 per cent beer in Oregon, a measure much like the recommendations of Mr. Koren. The measure lost decisively and a measure prohibiting even the importation of alcoholic beverages into the state was adopted. Inasmuch as Mr. Koren's book was quoted often during the campaign, the election affords sort of a rough test of how his theories are likely to be received at the present time.

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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PARTISAN POLITICS. *Annals of the American Academy of Social and Political Science*, March, 1916.

This issue of the *Annals* deals with a number of political and administrative problems, and with proposed plans for eliminating irresponsible and partisan government and for securing responsible and efficient methods of dealing with public affairs. After an editorial foreword and some extracts from Mr. Root's address on "the invisible government," there follows a series of articles in three groups: (1) the cost of partisan politics in the work of government; (2) movements to free public administration from partisan politics; and (3) public policies in a responsible government. Some of these articles are general in character; while others deal more specifically with the problems of national, state or local government.

Of most direct interest to the readers of the NATIONAL MUNICIPAL REVIEW are the articles on municipal and local problems. John A. Dunaway of the University of Pennsylvania discusses "Some efficiency methods of city administration," as illustrated by recent practice in the government of Philadelphia. William H. Connell, chief of the Philadelphia bureau of highways and street cleaning, in an article on "Public works and engineering services on a public service basis," describes some of the methods of keeping records of public works in that city. Henry Moskowitz, president of the municipal civil service commission of New York city compares "Old and new problems of civil service," with special reference to efficiency records, training for the public service and pensions. H. S. Gilbertson of the National Short Ballot Organization discusses the "Movement for responsible county government," and also presents "A practical guide to responsible government," in which he notes that cities are pointing the way out in the city-manager type of government.

These and other articles give useful information and suggestions on the subjects discussed. But the volume as a

whole lacks in unity and coherence. No clear relation is shown between the criticism of irresponsible government and spoils politics and the rather technical discussions of such matters as efficiency records. The writers of the various articles do not seem to have any distinct conception of a common purpose; though Professor Beard in his article on "Training for efficient public service" points out, what might well have been made more emphatically the keynote to the whole number, that the great problem of government in this country is the reconciliation of liberty and efficiency.

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THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT. By David Jayne Hill. New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 287 pp.

Dr. Hill's book is a discussion of the interrelations of the state, the law and the citizen—three concepts that are "fundamental to the realization of any high ideal of human society." He maintains that there is no proper sanction for unlimited sovereignty but that government is instituted primarily for the protection of the individual rights of life, liberty and property. Therefore, these rights must control government, not be controlled by it. The author denies the validity of the theory of absolutism no less when power is exercised by the majority than when it is exercised by a monarch. The constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the several commonwealths are the American expression of the "law of mutual obligation," which is the basis of the democratic state and the unique power of the American judiciary to declare statutes void when they are found to be inconsistent with this fundamental law, is the guaranty of constitutional democracy.

Dr. Hill regards the development of the citizen, whose charter of liberties and certificate of existence the constitution is, as America's chief contribution to political science. He sees in all efforts to make the amendment of the federal constitution easy, or to blur over or remove the dis-

inction between statutory and constitutional law, or to deprive the courts of the power to declare statutes unconstitutional, a menace to freedom and a tendency to turn back toward absolutism. Although Dr. Hill is obviously an exponent of the political philosophy of the conservative group which includes such men as William Barnes, Nicholas Murray Butler, William Howard Taft and many others, a radical can read his book without finding so very much to disagree with in it and can lay it down with the impression that the distinguished author's polemics are for the most part directed against men of straw. As an exposition of conservative American political philosophy, the book stimulates and invigorates thought. As an attack upon the practical program of the radicals in this country, except as to a relatively few extremists, the book has very little significance.

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THE VOTER IN COMMAND. By J. Albert Stowe. Newark, N. J.: The Upward Society. 62 pp.

This little brochure is an analysis of the "Walsh act," so-called, under which commission government has been made available for the cities of New Jersey which adopt it. The author criticizes the referendum provisions of the act on the theory that they are unworkable. He thinks that the referendum is of much greater practical importance than either the initiative or the recall, but maintains that ten days is altogether too short a time to be allowed for the filing of referendum petitions. The booklet is local to New Jersey, although it has a wider interest for the illustrative material it supplies to the general discussion of commission government and direct legislation.

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY RULE. By Edward Elliot. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Press. \$1.25 net.

The purpose of this volume, according to its preface, is to point out the fact