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Review

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alities are adding to the industrial and social interests of the city, and claims that the aim should be not only to have the North and West Ends "affected by the American spirit, but also to have the American spirit affected by what is real in them" (p. 382).

As, for the alien, "Americanization" may be described as the dominant aim, so of American civic life, greater purity of administration appears to be the prime need. Something has been achieved in this direction, but corruption, more or less veiled, is still rampant; reforms are still blocked or hindered from sinister motives. In the following sentence we may trace one of the roots of the evil: "It is probable," writes the editor, "that not less than one-third of the families of Irish extraction in the North and West End districts have breadwinners that are employed through political influence" (p. 121). Politics is still too much of a business and the "boss" too much in evidence, with the result that the business man of standing holds himself aloof from public affairs: "Membership in the City Council impairs a man's business credit if he has any. It is literally true that among business men an apology seems to be called for when one is seen in City Hall." "The successful business classes are filled with contempt for the entire political personnel" (pp. 362-3), forgetful, apparently, that the attitude of contemptuous isolation is apt to be the cause, no less than the effect, of the deterioration of public life. The small volume that demonstrates this truth, with many others cognate, is not less interesting than it is valuable. Its scope is wide, embracing chapters on housing, on drink and vice, on religion on the amenities of life, and on the children, in addition to those to which reference has been made. The editor has, however, not only done his own part of the work well, but has secured for the whole volume an admirable unity of design and treatment.

ERNEST AVEE

*Il movimento operaio.* By ACHILLE LORIA. (Milan: Remo Sandron. 1903. Pp. ii, 320. 2 lire.)

PROFESSOR LORIA's latest book, in contrast to so many Italian economic works, and, we are bound to add, to some of his own publications, is admirable in its conciseness and method, and we doubt whether there exists a more thoughtful and well-informed summary of the Trade Union movement. The only criticism we would make on it is that it occasionally shows some lack of acquaintance with the actual phenomena of industry. For instance, he forgets that it is possible to reduce the hours of labour without injury to profits, when the workmen are over-tired, or in the hour before breakfast, when the charges of lighting and consumption of motor-power may be in excess of any profit from labour; or, again, he does not take into account the effect of higher wages in stimulating the demand for commodities, and so

benefiting the producer. Briefly, Professor Loria's thesis is this :—Trade Unions have done a very valuable work, but they have certain inherent defects. They take the capitalist system for granted, and so long as they confine themselves to purely economic action, they do not directly help the community to a better system. Again, they oppose, as a rule, any legislation giving a full legal status to Trade Unions, though such legislation is almost indispensable to any satisfactory system of arbitration; he owns, however, that the bias of the Courts in England and elsewhere against Trade Unionism, which he does not hesitate to attribute to class prejudice, goes far to justify the workmen in their suspicions. A very careful inquiry into the relations of wages and profits leads him to the conclusion that though combination can produce a general rise of wages at the expense of profits, and though such a rise, rather than injure the foreign trade of a country, tends to favour it, yet there comes inevitably a point beyond which wages cannot rise without the intervention of the State. All these limitations, together with the workmen's growing sense that strikes are a wasteful and imperfect method, are forcing Trade Unionists to look less to economic and more to political activity. In other words, they are steadily tending to become socialistic, and the greater the hostility of employers and the Courts, the stronger is their impulse in this direction. Trade Unionism and Socialism, so far from being antagonistic, mutually assist each other. Professor Loria's last chapter is a pæan to Socialism, and, so far as we are aware, goes considerably farther than anything he has hitherto written. He evidently thinks that the capitalist system is doomed to a not remote disruption. At the same time his sympathies are clearly with the moderate wing of the Socialists, a wing which, he somewhat hastily observes, is stronger in Latin than in Teutonic countries. It is not clear how he reconciles his prophecy of the downfall of capitalism with his evident misgivings as to the prospects of collectivism. He seems to have in mind some half-way stage, though he is by no means explicit as to its nature, and he has small faith in the future of co-operation. The chapter on Co-operation is slighter, and apart from the description of the *Vooruit* of Ghent and the *Maison du Peuple* of Brussels, has no special interest. There is a curious printer's error on pp. 81–82, where two pages are printed in duplicate but with consecutive paging.

BOLTON KING

*Profumo. Le assicurazioni operaie nella legislazione sociale*  
(Turin: Fratelli Bocca. 1903. Pp. xxi, 402.)

THE title is rather misleading, for out of 388 pp. of text only 193 are devoted to Working Class Insurance. The book would lose nothing by the omission of the rest. The chapters on Insurance lack something in arrangement, but they are on the whole well done, and