

measure to extend interest and prompt further inquiry. But as a serious contribution to 'the already voluminous literature on Darwinism,' their value may be seriously¹ doubted.

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The Growth of Cities in the Nineteenth Century:

A Study in Statistics. By ADNA FERRIN WEBER, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner of Labor Statistics of New York. (Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Columbia University.) New York, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xvi + 495.

It is one thing to know in a general way that a certain movement is in progress, and quite another to know its causes, rate of progress and full significance. That a remarkable concentration of population in cities has taken place during the present century is well known by all; that this change in the character of the population is a momentous one is appreciated by those who give thought to the matter; but the various causes that have given rise to this movement, and the full extent and influence of the change, are known to but few if any. This information Dr. Weber has attempted, and in the main attempted successfully, to supply in the present detailed statistical study.

With a remarkable command of authorities, both foreign and American, the author carefully traces the increasing concentration of population in large cities in all the important countries of the world. Successive chapters treat of the general phases of the movement and the methods adopted for its measurement, the history and statistics of urban growth in each country separately, the causes of the concentration shown, migration as a factor, the structure of city populations as regards sex, age, nationality and occupation, birth, death and marriage rates as affecting urban growth, a comparison of the physical and moral health of cities and country, the economic, political and social effect of urban concentration upon population, and finally a consideration of certain tendencies and remedies for evils to which the growth of cities has given rise.

The work abounds in statistical tables. One cannot but admire the painstaking way in which the problem has been considered in all

its phases. At the same time the very detail with which this has been done is confusing. A proper discrimination has not always been exercised. Statistical tables have been inserted wherever the slightest opportunity offered, and many are of so slight importance that they could have been omitted without loss, or their results have been better stated in the body of the text. This is especially true where they are inserted merely for the purpose of illustrating collateral facts. The same criticism applies to the bibliographical references. While the constant reference to authorities and the insertion of bibliographical notes add materially to the value of the work, many of them are entirely unnecessary or foreign to the subject matter of the book.

Generally then, this monograph is a presentation of facts and bibliographical references concerning cities that will be of the greatest assistance to all persons wishing to study almost any problem connected with urban life. Its very exhaustiveness, however, makes it difficult for the ordinary reader to discriminate between the important and unimportant, or to learn what are the really significant results of this comprehensive study.

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J. N. BASKETT'S 'STORY OF THE FISHES.'

A RECENT book published by the Appleton's for their 'Home Reading Series' is 'The Story of the Fishes,' by J. N. Baskett. This is an attempt to popularize the anatomy and classification of the fishes, and gives as a separate 'Talk' an interesting account of the methods of fishing. The book is attractively presented for one of its kind: its figures are unusually good and it will prove a useful aid to a beginner—who is not fastidious in matters of scientific fact. The critical reader will find much to reprehend, for there are many inaccuracies and a deal of unbased theorizing. It is scarcely necessary to consider these shortcomings in detail, although a few should be noticed. In a pictorial phylogenetic tree the type of the ganoid is given as the 'gar-pike,' intended, of course, for *Lepidosteus*, but, unfortunately, the writer inserts the picture of a *gar-fish*, *Belone*, which is a well known and highly specialized