

classroom manual has thus far proved an insuperable obstacle to the production of a really excellent work of that sort. We are inclined to the opinion that Professor Macy has more clearly demonstrated the existence of this obstacle without successfully surmounting it.

The arrangement of topics adopted by the author is unusual. After a general introduction, in which is sketched the development of Germanic institutions, from the primitive *tunscepa* in Sleswick to the modern constitution of the United States, the reader is conducted through 'Matters chiefly local,' 'Administration of justice,' 'Federal executive business,' and 'Legislation,' to a final consideration of 'Constitutions.' The wisdom of thus reversing the customary order of presentation is doubtful. The moving cause in Professor Macy's mind was probably the idea of conforming to the order of historical development. Throughout the book, indeed, marked prominence is given to the origin and growth of the institutions described. But that the old Germanic township was the seed from which our higher governmental forms have sprung, seems to us no good reason why the modern local organizations should take precedence of the higher authorities that make and unmake them. It is likely to be misleading to the student to thus disarrange the order of political importance. The most logical method of presentation for the American reader is to begin with state institutions, and proceed down to the local and up to the national. Professor Macy himself recognizes this in a measure; for he recommends that the book be taken up in reverse order when a class is reviewing it.

Another feature of the book that will trouble the teacher is the very excellence of its answers to the question how our institutions grew. A textbook should be suggestive; but Professor Macy's sketches of the growth of various forms of governmental activity suggest too much. Nothing short of a complete course in the early history of institutions will enable a class of young students to appreciate, or even to understand, many of his chapters. His summaries are admirable, and could be made of service as the outline for a series of lectures; but, for class-work in an ordinary academic course, they are too sketchy.

In general, it is our opinion that the descriptive part of the work is subordinated too much to the historical. The chapter on juries, for example, contains eleven pages of matter relating to the development of the system in England, with descriptions of the customs of ordeal, compurgation, recognition, and trial by battle, and with a discussion of the relative weight of English and French influence in determining the final form of

the institution. The only reference to 'our government' in the chapter is contained in two lines at the end, stating that "the jury system was established in America by Englishmen, and is found in nearly all the states" (p. 78). For a class of students not learned in the law, we submit that some description of the jury system as it now exists, with some notice of the methods of drawing jurors, would be quite as profitable; nor could it be said to be less pertinent to the subject of the book.

While exception may thus be taken to some features of Professor Macy's work (and it must be admitted that the faults seem to result rather from the aim than the execution of the book), too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the clear, concise, and vigorous style of the author. As a practical book of reference for a teacher of civil government, it will be of great and permanent value. The 'suggestions' which are appended to each chapter show that the author himself is a teacher who understands his business, and they will be in many cases more useful than the text.

W. A. DUNNING.

ECONOMICS FOR THE PEOPLE.

Economics for the people. By R. R. BOWKER. New York, Harper, 1886. 16°.

OF Mr. Bowker's successful attempt "to set forth the principles of economics so as to make them plain and interesting to all readers, illustrating them from American facts, so that at the end of the book the reader will have a fair knowledge of the economic history and condition of our own country," little but what is good can be said. The book is certainly interesting, it is sufficiently full for its purpose, and it is unusually fair and temperate. Once or twice the author's personal opinions seem to come into collision with what most of our people consider established facts, but these are not stated in a way to attract very general attention. For example: on p. 70, while admitting in one sentence that under the protective tariff an enormous silk industry has been built up in the United States, and the price of the product greatly reduced, in the very next sentence Mr. Bowker says, that, "as silk is a luxury, no great hardship is worked by the increased price;" the fact being, of course, that there is no 'increased price.' The price has been greatly reduced.

In several passages Mr. Bowker appears to commit himself to the belief that the taxation of all land, unimproved on the same basis as improved, is likely to be the chief method of raising revenue in the future. Indeed, he expressly says this on p. 138. That this will really be the outcome of the study of the problems of taxation, we doubt very much. Mr. Bowker's clear distinction between time-

wages and piece-wages (p. 161) should clear up a great many fallacies fondly cherished by some writers on the industrial situation. On the money question Mr. Bowker is explicit, but not as emphatic as we could wish in pointing out the evils attendant upon the continuance of the present silver-coinage policy of the United States. Perhaps, however, he did not feel justified in introducing too much polemical matter into an expository treatise. On p. 236 the author touches on a point which we believe to be of great importance, because it is an illusion which is very generally cherished; that is, the mistaking unproductive consumption for productive consumption. Nine persons out of ten seem to think that the people in general are benefited when a millionaire spends large sums of money in flowers, laces, and so forth, arguing that in such ways more money is put in circulation. Mr. Bowker says truly that "the wealth thus wasted would, more wisely used, furnish capital to many more people in creating more wealth." But he should have fully illustrated this point, using examples similar to those of Mill and Fawcett in treating this same topic. A chapter on this head would not have been out of place; and then a large supply of marked copies of the book might have been 'productively consumed' by mailing them to our national and state legislators, and to a select list of popular orators on economic subjects. We like particularly the final chapter in this book, entitled 'The end of the whole matter,' in which the author makes plain the truths that wealth is not an end in itself, and that economics is subordinate to ethics. The following passage, too, is very clear, and puts the question as to the limits of state interference on what we conceive to be the proper basis: "When the social machinery grinds out injustice, abuses men, makes the rich richer and the poor poorer, the community practically will not accept the extreme *laissez faire* theory; it will not let *ill* enough alone, but will apply factory acts to right wrongs. The evils that society has done, society must undo. On the other hand, the common sense also rejects not only the impossible communism which would reduce the industrious and the idle to a common level, but also the socialism which would put the greater portion of the social work under control of the state, instead of leaving it to individuals. Between the two lies the actual working social system, varying among different peoples and at different times, but persistently in accord with the underlying economic laws, and never for any considerable time, in any stable state, against them. This is controlled always by public opinion, the aggregate of individual intelligences, in its turn directed by education and

by the mastery of leadership. And thus the promotion of economic progress resolves itself into the work of political education" (pp. 262, 263).

It is well that Mr. Bowker has put in his subtitle, 'for use in business;' for it is a peculiar yet true fact that most business-men, though they use the terms 'capital,' 'price,' 'value,' 'money,' 'rent,' 'profits,' and so on, every hour of their working lives, have very confused ideas as to what they mean and imply.

A plain man's talk on the labor question. By SIMON NEWCOMB. New York, Harper, 1886. 16°.

Professor Newcomb's recently published talks also come under the head of economics for the people, though the subject treated is but one of the many touched on by Mr. Bowker. We should say that the chief fault to be found with this book is that the style is almost too conversational and too familiar for dignity. The talks were originally published in the *Independent*, and from their simplicity and directness attracted much attention. Advanced political economists and erudite writers on society and its phases may sneer at Professor Newcomb's bluntness and homely illustrations, but the ordinary reader will see their force. The illustration, for example, on pp. 44, 45, would be possibly unpleasant though profitable reading for 'walking delegates.' Chapter xv., entitled 'Another talk to a knight of labor,' is excellent, and can be safely recommended not only to members of that secret organization, but to others who find much to admire and little to criticise in its platform of principles. On p. 180 and the following pages Professor Newcomb disposes very neatly of the fallacy that waste creates wealth; but whether Mr. Powderly will break any fewer ginger-ale bottles in consequence of his perusal of it, remains to be seen.

CREMONA'S PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY.

PROFESSOR CREMONA'S new work on projective geometry makes an attractive appearance in its English dress. The characteristically English additions of the translator, together with the fact that the author himself has striven to imitate the English models, for which he professes great admiration, have had the effect to make the book quite indistinguishable, were it not for the title-page, from a book of purely English origin.

The volume before us has the common defect of not throwing sufficient illumination upon the great central points of the theory which it constructs, and of giving too much space (and too large type) to unimportant details. Another de-

The elements of projective geometry. By LUIGI CREMONA. Tr. by Charles Leudesdorf. Oxford, Clarendon pr., 1885. 8°.