

Since then the Federal government has increased its power, and the President has concentrated it. Efficiency and stability were being realized, but democracy kept pace with new amendments to the Constitution. What will come out of this present war we cannot as yet tell.

Mr. Millspaugh, always the historian, in concluding, points out the immensity of our land, peoples, and problems. The page is solemn; but the questions, he says, are not unanswerable.

A. B.

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FOR A COTERIE OF CHOICE SOULS

"Sociocultural Causality, Space, Time," by Pitirim A. Sorokin. Duke University Press, Durham, N. C., 1943. Cloth bound, 246 pp.

The author is Professor of Sociology at Harvard University, and previously with the Universities of Minnesota and St. Petersburg. He is an integralist sociologist, one who uses all methods to collect, arrange, and interpret data on social and cultural matters, but uses also certain reference principles. These principles consider that purely physical sciences can have very little application to the social sciences. Even statistical and sampling techniques are to be regarded with suspicion.

Through the fog of wordiness one gathers that he must be very careful in his data, and use common sense. The professor labors mightily in stating that an idea is different from a thing. For example, you might be interested in knowing that a church building divested of its religious character is nothing but a pile of stones like any other building; or that a flag without its patriotic significance is nothing but a piece of cloth. Such conclusions, which an ordinary person takes for granted, seem to need great elaboration. However, Sorokin has unearthed a great number of people who try to plot on geometric co-ordinates "the state of one's feelings," or "the time of one's life on vacation," etc. Since he mentions names and quotations, such beings must exist, but one suspects they are also professors, who seek the shelter of the walls of university halls, thereby avoiding other shelters.

Throughout the book Prof. Sorokin pursues these erring individuals, and deals with them relentlessly. And, as he scorns the use of one- and two-

syllable words, he employs only heavy artillery. The book is of little interest to the general reader, and is apparently intended for a coterie of choice souls like the author. One is reminded of the old lady who asked the zoo-keeper what the sex of the hippopotamus in the cage was. "That, madam," he replied, "is a question that would only interest another hippopotamus."

A. B.

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A LESSON IN CORRUPTION

"Lords of the Levee," by Lloyd Wendt and Herman Kogan. Bobbs-Merrill Co., New York, 1943. 384 pp. \$3.00.

Two Chicago newspaper men have written a history of their city, with emphasis on the period of 1890-1910. It will appeal to Chicagoans interested in the makings of their metropolis; and to the general public, it is a primer of municipal corruption. It is the story of Bathhouse John and Hinky Dink.

The First Ward contains the Loop business district and the Levees. The last was the name given to the district on Clark Street, near Taylor Street, and later transferred to the neighborhood of 21st Street. The Levees were the gambling, brothel, and opium dens of greatest prominence. In the First Ward was born John J. (Bathhouse John) Coughlin. He grew to a strapping young man, owner of popular bathhouses and saloons. These were all the requisites needed for politics, and from ward-heel The Bath became Alderman, a job he held for 45 years.

Though illiterate and inane, he knew how to get the votes. With the aid of Michael (Hinky Dink) Kenna he was the central figure in the vilest swindles and rackets in Chicago. And this, despite a blameless private life. He merely regarded prostitution and gambling, two of the most flourishing industries in the ward, as necessary evils.

Wendt and Kogan indict all legal monopoly and privilege as the founts of easy wealth. Time and again lands and right of way (of great rental value created entirely by concentrated population) were voted away by the City Council for paltry bribes. Strangle-holds on the city's windpipe of production were secured by men who did nothing but levy tribute on the hapless citizens. The business men

cared little how they were governed, so long as the price of privilege was not too high. The aldermen really believed that the franchise rights of the city belonged to them personally.

It is clear that Chicago's notoriety was due not to lawlessness, but to law. Even to the time of Capone and beyond, the grafters and gangsters needed law and the police department on their side. In an anarchistic city the crooks could never have survived. But with a bought Council and police who clubbed honest citizens, corruption was king! To this day the sprawling city struggles fitfully with inadequate local transportation and insufficient public services. Chicago is an object lesson in the need for careful franchise granting, city planning, and land value taxation.

A. B.

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HELEN BERNSTEIN, graduate of the H. G. S. S. S., brings us a page each issue that is important to integration between Freedom Economists and Freedom Civic Groups.

J. RUPERT MASON remained in the investment field until 1926. Since then he has been an inveterate traveler-student on every continent. Trustee of the United Committee for Land Value Taxation, and a member of the California Planning and Housing Association.

CATHERINE KLOCK, interior decorator, has been an active volunteer at the H. G. S. S. S. since graduation from Fundamental Economics three years ago. Joining the League of Women Voters a year ago, she is convinced that political and economic consciousness go hand in hand.

To ALEXANDER BOARDMAN goes the palm for most consistent endeavors for this office prior to each issue. Besides reading the many books we give him—sandwiched in between his job as Chief Chemist for the Paramet Company—Mr. Boardman takes over onerous editorial assignments, as the deadline of publication inexorably approaches.

CLAYTON BAUER is the editors' most diligent critic. Trained in the Uzzell School of Creative Writing (as well as the H. G. S. S. S. Correspondence Division), Mr. Bauer has written some excellent short stories—but his criticisms are better.