

BOOK NOTES.

A WORK ON THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.*

This is a work in which the increased cost of living, commodities, raw material and rent is discussed scientifically and generally. We use the term scientifically with premeditation, for the author proceeds methodically and with great care in the consideration of his problem.

He points out that the tendency toward higher prices is twenty years old, that there is apparently no sign of decrease, and that because wages show no tendency to rise wage workers are confronted by a dwindling subsistence.

In his summary of the causes of high prices we are pleased to note that Prof. Nearing does not lay great stress on the much touted gold theory which holds that this increase in price of commodities is due to the increased output of gold, although he concedes that it has had some effect. It will also surprise the reader that he does not attribute increased cost of living, even in small degree, to the trusts, and he points out that there has been no increase in the price of trust-made goods. But he indicates that the cost of products most directly derived from land have greatly increased in price, and the prices of agricultural land have shown a marked upward tendency. He contends that no period of similar duration has shown anything like the increase for the last two decades, in the price of highly desirable parts of the earth's surface on which man is particularly dependent for a livelihood.

While the author's summary of causes leaves little ground for dispute it is a disappointment to find him laying small stress upon the importance of one single remedy, following as the most obvious conclusion from his premises—namely, the taxation of land values. Though strongly recommended it is not insisted upon with the needed emphasis. On the contrary, the remedies advocated embrace a large category. The "individual well-to-do" are urged to "buy

at lower prices," or get more service for their expenditures, which is not even a remedy for the individual well-to-do. Among other "remedies" are Getting Back to the Land, Education, Greater Efficiency of Food Distribution, Conservation of Soil Fertility, and International Agreement to control the output of Gold. These capitals are ours and not the headings of chapters, and it will not be well to assume from them that Prof. Nearing is wholly astray, for he says that "land taxation is the most pressing of all reforms or the reduction of monopoly power."

If our author has not, as it seems to us, placed the first reform first, we should be grateful to him for a very intelligent discussion of one, if not the most important problem of the day. There is much in the book that will prove suggestive to the student of economics, and the style is remarkably clear.—J. D. M.

NEW EDITION OF CALL OF THE CARPENTER.*

The publishers have recently issued a cheap paper edition of Bouck White's "Call of The Carpenter," called the Blackwell's Island Edition, owing to the fact that the author is serving a term in the city prison for invading John D. Rockefeller's Calvary Baptist Church uninvited, and propounding the question for debate with the pastor: "Did Jesus teach the immorality of being rich." The sale of the entire edition is placed in the hands of Sol. Fieldman, leader of the Church of the Social Revolution, which Bouck White founded shortly before his arrest and the proceeds are to be devoted exclusively to the support of the Church.

The "Call of the Carpenter" created a sensation when it appeared owing to its novel and revolutionary interpretation of the character of Jesus, who, as portrayed by Bouck White, was the first great social reformer the world has known and who dreamed of a great democratic revolt of the working classes of his day against the ecclesiastical and political tyrants who exploited and oppressed them. The new edition is greatly increasing the sale of this stirring message of democracy among the toiling masses whom it is the author's desire to reach and awaken.

* "Reducing the Cost of Living," by Scott Nearing, Ph.D. 12 mo. cloth, 343 pp. George W. Jacobs, Philadelphia, Pa.