

land values has stimulated the use of land, and landowners are much more inclined to accept tenants and purchasers than they were some years ago.

* * *

A TOWN WORTH LIVING IN.

From Collier's of July 8, 1911.

A certain country town has 2,500 population, is not the county seat, is more than forty miles from the nearest city, and depends almost entirely upon the neighboring farms for its prosperity. In appearance this town differs little from a thousand others of its class, except that the three garages are a surprise, and the lawns and houses might be remembered as neater and more trim than ordinary.

Ask a question and it leads you far.

You notice, perhaps, that the press of the country newspaper is run by an electric motor. The power and light plant is the property of the town and pays a revenue of \$500 a month into the public treasury.

The heating plant for downtown stores also is owned by the people. It utilizes the waste steam from the power plant and cuts the merchants' fuel bills in half. A country physician's son, who in this little town now is completing a \$50,000 hospital for general practice, has credit for the suggestion that the steam be connected with the water system, so that if the water pipes ever become infected they may be sterilized with live steam.

To this municipal light, water, and heating plant is attached a private ice factory which sells pure ice made from sterilized water at forty-five cents a hundred pounds. A wholesale ice cream factory—buying real country cream to sell again for eighty cents a gallon—uses the cold salt water from the ice plant.

Helpful co-operation is found in other fields.

Uncle John Mowder, a farmer now comfortably rich and with spare time to improve his "form" in horseshoe quoits, uses his little fortune as a private remedial loan fund for townspeople who long to own a home; and the woman who makes quilts for the countryside, the boy who runs the peanut stand, a clerk in a general store, and a tinner's helper are respected property owners. The town boasts that every laborer who has lived in the place five years owns a home, and that Uncle John never has lost a dollar on many risky securities.

Women's club meetings have time for Keats and Browning and the servant problem never needs to be discussed. In the neighborhood there are a number of the Amish sect whose daughters, as a matter of religious principle, will do the housework and mind the baby for ten cents an hour or \$3 a week or less—never more, and though their parents may own a \$50,000 farm, these serv-

ants treat you as an equal. (Our own joke, copyrighted.)

At one end of town is a public playground, which in winter is flooded for a skating rink. For a city man who remembers the country town as it used to be, a visit to such a community as this is stimulating education.

The place, by the way, is Sabetha, Kansas.

* * *

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Arthur Guiterman, in Life.

The powder lay in heaps—a threat
Of death—where powder should not be;
Some fool threw down a cigarette—
And flaming ruin rent the sky.

Whereat, a solemn jury met
And laid the blame, in wisdom rare,
On him that threw the cigarette,
Not them that left the powder there.

Upon the heaps of Want and Shame
Whereon men build, one evil day
Some fool will fling a word of flame—
And what will follow, who shall say?

But should all earth be overset,
We'll lay the blame, in dull despair,
On him that threw the cigarette,
Not them that put the powder there.

BOOKS

THE SHAME OF OUR CITY.

Neglected Neighbors. By Charles Frederick Weller. Published by the John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia. 1909. Price, \$1.50 net.

Those American citizens who take pride in the beauties of their capital city will be startled to read this book, pained even to look at its scores of excellent photographs. For Washington has a very, very dirty and shameful backyard; and Mr. Weller—for seven years a charity officer and settlement worker there—knows the place and tells its foulness.

When you visit Washington next time, turn into what seems like the private driveway of the first great mansion you see, keep on past the house and you will probably come to an alley, an extraordinary alley, where garbage accumulates and ordinary men decay. For in the middle of Washington's handsome blocks with only this narrow sort of lane as access to the street, in houses unbelievably wretched, are huddled human beings by the hundred and hundred.

As everyone knows, Washington inhabitants are disfranchised, have no voice in the government either of their own city or their nation. Congress is their absolute ruler. Hence these slums? Per-

haps. But other cities have slums. Commissions have investigated, reported, had laws passed, houses demolished, even a few alleys wiped out—and rents have risen 15 and 20 per cent! A cat is roaming at large in the alleys of Washington. Mr. Weller quotes that "a dwelling house policy is essentially a land policy"; speaks of the opinions of Benjamin C. Marsh about congestion of population and closes one paragraph thus:

The settled and proper respect which all Americans have for private property and for the protection of every citizen in the enjoyment of the products of his labor, does not entail any veneration for the protection of private land values which the holder has done nothing to create. Without subscribing to the "Single Tax" theory or any other general philosophy, it must be obvious to every one that land values in a city are mainly created by society itself. It is inevitable that society will grow more and more to demand for all the people an increasing share of these values which the people have produced.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

+ + +

GUARDING THE CHILD'S HEALTH

The Health Index of Children. By Ernest Bryant Hoag. Published by Whitaker & Ray-Wiggin Co., San Francisco, 1910. Price, 80 cents.

The object of this little handbook—written by the medical director of schools in Berkeley, California—is to instruct parents and teachers how to co-operate intelligently with school health officers in keeping the children well. Part I contains eight chapters of simple description of the child's possible defects and diseases, with their early symptoms. The pages about defective teeth are most startling. Dr. Hoag finds conditions appalling and results disastrous. Part II adds a few chapters on methods for physical examinations, administrative measures, and the like. Parents and teachers would do well to read and keep the book for reference despite the lack of index.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- The Fourth Physician. By Montgomery Pickett. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. 1911.
- Pay-Day. By C. Hanford Henderson. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1911. Price, \$1.50 net.
- Problems in Railway Regulation. By Henry S. Haines. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1911. Price, \$1.75 net.
- My Attainment of the Pole. By Frederick A. Cook. Published by the Polar Publishing Co., Cambridge Bldg., New York. 1911.
- History and Organization of Criminal Statistics in the United States. By Louis Newton Robinson.

Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston and New York. 1911. Price, \$1.00 net.

—Essential Elements of Business Character. By Herbert G. Stockwell. Published by Fleming H. Revell Co., Chicago. 1911. Price, 60 cents net.

PAMPHLETS

Danish Land Values Pamphlet.

"Jordskyld Reformen i Udlandet" (Land-Values-Due Reform in Foreign Countries), by P. Larsen, is published by the Committee for Land Values Taxation in Copenhagen, 1911. The author is a well-known Danish Singletaxer, who in highly intelligent and comprehensive manner describes the progress in the practical introduction of Land Values Taxation in the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Kiautschow in China, New Zealand, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales. The word "Jordskyld"—"Land due"—has a significance worth special notice. It was introduced some years ago into Danish single tax literature by Mr. Sophus Berthelsen, editor of "Ret," known to Singletaxers the world over. The word is an attempt to overcome the rather general idea that the Single Tax is just a mere taxation measure, by substituting "due" for "tax," thereby implying that the appropriation of the rental values of land by society is not at all a tax burden, confiscating property produced by labor, but rather a value due society because produced by its presence and activities, and that in taking it society thus simply takes its own.

C. M. K.

+ +

Pamphlets Received.

Among the pamphlets recently received are the following:

Taxation of Land Values in American Cities. The Next Step in Exterminating Poverty. By Benjamin C. Marsh. Published by the Author, 320 Broadway, New York City, 1911.

Socialistic Tenets. A Criticism. By John Smith, 1911. Department of Landscape Architecture, 1911-1912. Official Register of Harvard University. Published by Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Administration of the Office of Recorder of Cook County, Illinois. Report prepared for the Judges of the Circuit Court by the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency. September, 1911.

PERIODICALS

From Swedes in America.

The August number of Budkavlen, of Stockholm, Sweden, contains excerpts from two letters to the editor from Swedes who had emigrated to the United States. To both of them the editor had sent the question: "What can be done by legislation to stop emigration?" Both answers are in the main pretty much alike. Says the one: "The chief economic reforms which are necessary are the abolishment of the tariff, and a new foundation for the fiscal system which would leave the individual's wealth in