

"But the blankets must cost a lot more than brooms would."

"Sure. Blankets must stand the city at least a dollar and a quarter each, while the best brooms bought in large quantities would not cost over twenty-five cents apiece. And one broom would last longer than half a dozen blankets. But we can't help it. Must keep the fire-house clean for inspection or we would all get fired. No matter how often we requisition brooms there isn't one forthcoming, while we can get all the blankets we want, and no questions asked."

"Seems funny. How is it, do you suppose?"

"Only reason I can give is that the new administration is short of funds. You know when the gang was cleared out they didn't leave much cash in the treasury. So they can't buy anything. Probably somebody in a former administration got some graft for laying in a large stock of blankets. So they are stocked up on blankets and got no brooms. But it costs somebody something in the long run. Fierce, ain't it?"

W. P., JR.



## THE GUERNSEY-MARKET SUBSTITUTE FOR BONDS.

An Extract from the Writings of Jonathan Duncan.\*

The Island of Guernsey, being in the channel between France and England, by some blunder in the treaty transferring several islands in that channel from the former to the latter government, had been left free from the control of either and remained in the hands of the local island government. This government consisted of a mayor and council. John Guelph was at that time mayor and a true friend of the people according to the best of his ability. The people were in great need of a public market building, but were destitute of money with which to build. Mayor Guelph called the council together for consultation on the matter. Each in his place declared that timber, lumber, stone, brick, with good strong arms and willing hands, were plenty, but no money to effect purchases or pay for labor. All agreed that it would be unwise to borrow money at interest.

The estimated cost of the market was 4,000 pounds sterling. It was decided to create and issue as wanted for the purpose four thousand one-pound notes. These notes were made a legal tender for rent of stalls when the market was complete. The credit of the island government was good for the fulfillment of that pledge, and the contractor at once proceeded with his work, receiving the one-pound notes in payment. With these he paid for material, timber, stone, brick, etc., and wages of the men employed. Those

receiving the notes in turn paid them to the shop-keepers for goods. The shop-keepers gave them to the landlords for rent, and they again distributed them in society. In this manner they were kept constantly passing from hand to hand and place to place over the island, performing the functions of money as well or even better than if made of gold or silver, and yet costing but a trifle in comparison with these metals. During this period, business was brisk, labor more generally employed, and the people more prosperous than before.

In due season the market was completed. It contained eighty shops and stalls, which were let to butchers and dealers at five pounds a year. This made the annual rent 400 pounds sterling, or \$2,000.

At the close of the first year of tenancy, four hundred of the one-pound notes with which the market had been built, had been received by the island authorities that owned the market. It was a national building, built with national money. When this money was thus received, it was burnt up in the presence of the official authorities and the people.

The operation was repeated from year to year for ten years, at the expiration of which period all the four thousand one-pound notes having been received and thus destroyed, they of course ceased to exist.

But the annual rent did not cease; that exists to this day and the money is applied to local improvements and government expenses.



Build the Trusts a little fence,  
Across the way.  
Get behind the tariff bars,  
And there decay.

Look not on the dire results  
That mark the morrow;  
Bloated fortunes, striking hordes,  
Madness and sorrow.

GERTRUDE COLLES.

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## BOOKS

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### A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT'S STORY.

*The Promised Land.* By Mary Antin. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1912. Price, \$1.75 net.

The Russian Jew in America is fortunate in his interpreters. The new understanding of his past hardships and the fresh sympathy in his present perplexities taught us by Zangwill's "The Melting Pot," are deepened and personified by the autobiography of a Russian Jewish woman, just printed serially in the *Atlantic Monthly* and now published in book form.

\*See *The Public*, volume xiii, pages 725, 726, inclusive of footnote on page 726.

Born of good parentage in one of Russia's Jewish cities, in her childhood knowing the indignities of a persecuted race and the descent from riches to penury, Mary Antin at the age of fourteen came with her family to America, here to seek fortune and freedom. Bright, active, original, with her home in the slums and her heart in the highlands of culture and beauty, this little Jewish girl of literary talent and much personal magnetism made her way rapidly through the public schools and on into college, her days full of honors and friends, her heart full of thankfulness to her adopted country.

The book is a piece of literature—a fragment of human experience communicated to the sympathies of mankind. It was worth writing and is most certainly worth reading; for there is in it much to enjoy and much to take to heart. One can never forget the sombre side of life "Within the Pale" in Russia, where "mediaeval injustice" prevails, nor the brighter times when family and village make merry in queer foreign ways. And many a grownup will laugh—perhaps for the first time—over his own biggest, most ridiculous youthful blunder, when he reads of Mary's gratuitous public "Thank you" at her grammar-school graduation to the astonished speaker who had held up as a shining example Mary's student career with careful omission of his heroine's name.

The usual flavor of even the cleverest autobiography is in the book, that tang of boastfulness which Failure is always tasting in the memoirs of Success. But the author seems enough of a woman easily to bear transference to her of a deft writer's remark about Huxley to the effect that "Everybody, himself included, must admire so noble a fellow."

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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—The Supreme Court and the Constitution. By Charles A. Beard. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.00 net.

—The Strenuous Life Spiritual and the Submissive Life. By A. Van der Naillen. Published by R. F. Fenno & Co., 18 E. 17th St., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.00.

—Government by All the People; or, The Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall as Instruments of Democracy. By Delos F. Wilcox. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.50 net.

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## PAMPHLETS

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From a German Pamphleteer.

A new economic reform publication has just appeared in Germany, which though entitled "The

Physiocrat," seems in spirit a very distant relative of those economic ancestors to whom Georges Darien in France has been introducing modern Singletaxers. The editor, George Blumenthal (Berlin Lichterfelde, Bülkestr. 11), and his collaborating writer, Eckehardt, declare for Henry George's land reform—as amended to land nationalization by Flurschheim, and for the abolition of interest, as the twin evil to private land ownership; by these two reforms purposing to gain for every worker the full product of his labor. To these writers the contemplated Socialist state seems a huge prison for the individual; the ideas of the old French physiocrats were right, but strangled by the Revolution; Henry George saw only half a truth ("of money and interest he unfortunately had not the least comprehension"). The League of German Land Reformers they regard as a timid crew, mistaken if not worse, and their program of merely taxing the land value increment as hopelessly inadequate; but Silvio Gesell with his books on the land and money question is hailed as the true prophet and leader in today's economic thought. There is throughout more "hurrah for our side" than explanation of what that side is—a kind of demonstration only to be forgiven in a first appearance.

A. L. G.



### Pamphlets Received.

Examination of Employees for Tuberculosis. Published by the Committee on Factories of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, Room 1351, Otis Building, Chicago.

Individualism: The Solution of our Economic Problems. By Joseph Jordan Devney. Published by the Individualist Publishing Co., Cleveland, O. Price, 25 cts.

American Sociological Society: Papers and Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C., December 27-30, 1911. Published for the Society by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Containing: "The Quality of Civilization," by Franklin H. Giddings; "The City as a Socializing Agency," by Frederic C. Howe; and other Papers, together with "The Report of the Committee of Ten" on subject matter for a fundamental course in Sociology.

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## PERIODICALS

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### The Christian Science Monitor.

The most coherent and in other respects most satisfactory reporting of the Republican convention proceedings at Chicago was done by the Christian Science Monitor, which published a special convention edition at Chicago during the convention.



### The German Land Reform Movement.

The first part of an excellent article on "Land Reform in Germany," written by Dr. W. Schrameier for the Single Tax Review, is published in the May-June number. The history is given of the beginnings of the movement briefly up to 1898, more fully since that year, when the Land Reform League under the leadership of A. Damaschke adopted its working program. There is included a clear statement of the Kiaochow experiment,