

Their crazy ways and deeds;
 The crazy priests and preachers yell,
 "He's busting up our creeds!"
 Just take a trip to Crazy Land,
 Down on the Looney Pike—
 They are the queerest people there—
 You never saw the like;
 They're wrong-side-to in Crazy Land,
 They're upside down with care—
 They walk around upon their heads
 And feet up in the air!

BOOKS

ON AMERICAN POLITICS.

Progressive Democracy. By Herbert Croly. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

Readers of The New Republic who are familiar with Mr. Croly's name at the top of its distinguished list of editors and who know him, too, as Marcus A. Hanna's biographer will many of them look for a nearer acquaintanceship through his latest published volume. To discover what sort of man is behind the book is, however, not so easy as to descry some sorts of man he is not. His party affiliations, if he has any, are not so strong—or so uncontrolled—as to force him to disclose them to the naked eye, even in a treatise on present-day American political tendencies. But one somehow guesses that he is not a Democrat, and gradually comes to wonder whether his democracy is either progressive or democratic. He boldly attacks the slogan, "equal rights for all and special privilege to none" as at present wholly impracticable, and substitutes as a workable plan "special privilege to all." What "special privilege to all" can mean, is hidden from at least one eager reader. It sounds like exactly what one's unrighteous selfish self yearns for, and yet it would be a tremendous disappointment to that same self if every other person got it too.

The author's economics is an uncertain affair. He talks of industrial democracy, and this for him consists largely in the wage-earner—whom he frankly announces as a class come to stay in America—gaining a little Perkinsque democracy in the running of the business of which he is a part. He views trades unions merely as an educative and necessary way for the wage-earner to attain this modicum of independence, and he almost sympathizes with syndicalism in its object—the class control of industry—although deprecating with horror its revolutionary method. "Private property" is apparently all one to him: land, instruments of production, and product—the same hopper holds them and the same wall surrounds for a long, weary, paternalistic time ahead.

Mr. Croly's political science, however, is several generations ahead of his economics. He stands

emphatically for the "Gateway Amendment" to the Federal Constitution, unequivocally for the Recall and for "direct popular control of the machinery of government." But the Initiative, he thinks, "should be granted only at the bidding of a carefully validated petition signed by a comparatively large number of voters," since, as used now, it "places an enormous power in the hands of a skilful and persistent minority." One chapter, a very interesting one, is devoted to W. S. U'Ren's People's Power plan of State governments, the principle of which is heartily approved.

The whole book is difficult reading, repetitious and lacking in emphasis; its opinions—many of them worth attention—are too painstakingly weighed to be brilliantly expressed, and so elaborately elucidated as to produce slightly the effect, upon the irreverent reader, of a good magician's patter.

A. L. G.



TRUTH ENTERS A UNIVERSITY.

The Abolition of Poverty. By Jacob H. Hollander. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston. 1914. Price, 75 cents net.

To those who follow reason regardless of authority, the needlessness of poverty is neither a new nor startling fact. But few of these have learned their political economy at the great universities. In such institutions the possibility of abolishing poverty and the means whereby this can be accomplished have not been welcome objects of discussion. As a result, it is not in the universities, but in the open forums of radical organizations, that best opportunities exist for discussion and study of principles of the science of political economy. It is significant, therefore, to note that in the department of political economy of a leading university the fact is now conceded that poverty can be abolished. It indicates that the influence of despised radical clubs and humble curbstone orators is making itself felt even in strongholds of orthodox political economy. To be sure, Professor Hollander's treatment of the subject, radical as it may seem to the old school economists, must appear timid and unsatisfactory to the veterans in the fight for economic justice. But when old fallacies are first questioned in places where they have long been treated with awesome respect, it is both natural and wise to make inquiries in a timid and reverential manner.

Professor Hollander presents facts so familiar to attendants at radical club meetings and readers of radical literature, as for instance, that workers are receiving insufficient wages, that the Malthusian doctrine is not borne out by facts and that the problem is not one of production but of distribution—all a very old story to the confirmed radical, but apparently more new than it ought to be in many college class rooms.

In presenting his remedy, Professor Hollander