

BOOK REVIEWS.

*JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY.

This book from the pen of Mr. John R. Dunlap, of the *Engineering Magazine*, of this city, is journalism. It is good journalism. But it is nothing more. It deals with data; it does not treat of explanations or solutions in any but a purely incidental fashion. It is true that the author has his solutions; and these he regards as very simple and easy, and indeed they are if we accept his very easy and simple and quite superficial analysis.

His remedy for corporate abuses is "publicity." Attaching as he does such superlative importance to this remedy it is to be feared that his optimism has slight foundation. To know that abuses exist is important, but who does not know it? In view of the largely prevailing public apathy on these questions, how can our author believe that publicity offers a permanent corrective? If all this abuse of power spring "through public franchises granted by the people" then no solution short of the restoration of these franchises to the people is adequate.

Yet our author will not consider "public ownership" of such franchises. He even attributes the failure of the Greek democracy to "government ownership."

Mr. Dunlap clearly sees that the monopoly of the Standard Oil Company is derived from its ownership of oil wells, railroads, and pipe lines. He places them in this order, yet it is clear that any one of these monopolies—land monopolies all—would suffice to give that Company powers of extortion. "The remedy," says Mr. Dunlap, "is to open the books." We must call the officials to account." Indeed, for what? For doing as they will to do with their own? And this watered stock of the great corporations founded upon monopoly—"upon which the people are heavily taxed to pay interest and dividends." Does it make any difference to the people who pay whether they pay to a smaller or larger number of stockholders, on a large or small capitalization? The powers of taxation in the hands of a monopoly are not determined by its capitalization; it is the extent of its monopoly that in the first place determines how much paper it can float. Stock watering is a symptom; it is not in itself the evil. Why, then, worry about it? If the publicity which Mr. Dunlap advocates as a remedy has taught our author only so much—for he is better informed on the details of these matters than after his publicity law had triumphed the average citizen could possibly be—how can we hope for any large results from the mere "opening of the books?"

Mr. Dunlap speaks of "the ardent reform-

ers of our time who are confused by theories of socialism and the single tax." "We must get back to first principles." "We must indeed, but we are more than confused—we are pitifully mystified—if we conceive with our author that tariff reform, a graduated income tax, and publicity of corporation accounts are solutions in accord with first principles.

Our author thinks that the law of eminent domain offers a solution of the land question. He would apply it to unused coal mines, when coal is sorely needed. "The application of the law of eminent domain to vacant and unused opportunities," he cries, triumphantly. Shall it be applied to every city lot, to every vacant farm? Can one picture even in imagination the confusion resulting from the operation of such an exercise of the law of eminent domain. Why he should think the single tax "impossible" after that, is a mystery; for if this is possible then nothing is impossible and nothing impracticable.

The best chapter is that on money. This, at least, will repay reading. Yet even here Mr. Dunlap attaches undue importance to the purely superficial aspect of the money question. Granted that "sound money" is necessary to continued prosperity, yet regardless of any monetary system, prosperity is determined by other and more fundamental causes. It is not the single taxer, but our author who is confused by the purely superficial aspects of his problem, for it is the single taxer who can tell him that so long as the earth owners exact tribute of industry—a tribute limited only by the earning capacity of labor and capital, and forever trenching upon their powers of endurance—there can be no real and lasting prosperity.

It is to be regretted that so little can be said in praise of this work, for Mr. Dunlap writes with much earnestness. If he could think as clearly as he feels keenly, and knew as much of first principles as he does of industrial and political history, his work would possess some significance.

J. D. M.

*GETTING A LIVING.

What Solomon really meant to say was "of making books without limit there is no end." Here is a work of 769 pages; it would make no difference if it were double or half that number; its limitations as to letter press are determined only by the writer's industry and powers of endurance. But there will not exist anywhere a reader who will peruse the book from beginning to end: such indefatigable powers are not to be discovered even in this much reading but little thinking age. The very dedication is a short chapter in itself, not bad, indeed, but full of the author's peculiar verbosity.

*Jeffersonian Democracy, by John R. Dunlap. Published by the Jeffersonian Society, 120 Liberty Street, N. Y. City. Paper 50 cents; cloth \$1.50, 479 pp.

*Getting a Living. The Problem of Wealth and Poverty, by George L. Bolen, 8vo 769 pp. The Macmillan Company, London and New York.