

There has been perhaps too much said about the debt of Latin literature to the Greek. Of course Roman writers were influenced by the only literature which they knew. A modern English writer has back of him Hebrew literature, Greek, Roman, Italian, French, Spanish, German, and now Russian. The Latin writer had only Greek; it was natural that he should feel the influence. Yet in Rome there were not wanting those who upheld a native development. One of the earliest of the poets, Naevius, seems to have been ready to make a fight for independence, just as an American writer of to-day might be inclined to throw aside foreign models.

The course of Latin literature, with brief and discriminating accounts of the leading authors, will be found most interestingly set forth in Prof. William Cranston Lawton's new book (Introduction to Classical Latin Literature, Scribner's, New York, \$1.20). Those who have read, for example, Prof. Lawton's little book, entitled *Three Dramas of Euripides*, will agree that few scholars are so well fitted as he to write a history of classical literature, which shall be both usable in schools, and at the same time interesting and valuable as a book for the general reader.

He has the quality, which many scholars unhappily lack, of going to the real values in literature, and not permitting the details of nice scholarship to absorb his whole attention. In this book, as far as is possible in a short treatise, he attempts to put his readers in touch with his authors' main purposes. He gives a number of quotations, always in good translations, and in this respect, as well as in the unstilted character of his style, he has made his book one which may be read with profit and interest by persons who have never read a line of Latin.

He shows the same inclination of appeal to the general reader in the bibliographies appended to each chapter. In these he takes pains to refer to the last translations, as well as to various English works that deal with his authors. These references are in the main very satisfactory, though certain failures, as for example the omission of Froude's *Caesar* and Shairp's fine essay on Virgil, are somewhat surprising.

J. H. DILLARD.

DATA OF SOCIAL PROGRESS.

A year book of social progress, such as Josiah Strong has undertaken as editor to maintain (*"Social Progress, a year book and encyclopedia of economic, industrial, social and religious statistics."* New York: the Baker & Taylor Co., Union Square, North) is too ambitious a work to approximate perfection, or even to give satisfaction, until it shall have been for several years before

the public. Its field is new and its scope great, which makes completeness impossible except as the result of age and accumulated information and experience; and as its statistics necessarily depend upon official publications which do not include the strictures of critics, while much of the non-statistical information must be gathered from interested enthusiasts, the check that such a publication ought to put upon a too confiding acceptance of "facts and figures" is, and until it has occupied its field longer, must be in greater or less degree untrustworthy. But if the future issues of Dr. Strong's annual improve upon preceding ones as the second issue has improved upon the first, it will not be long before the work will serve not only as a handy reference book but as a quotable authority.

As a reference book, furnishing suggestive information and disclosing lines and channels of inquiry, the number for 1905, now before us, is an invaluable guide with reference to the wide range of subjects it covers. Yet the volume is small and inexpensive.

L. F. P.

PAMPHLETS

For information regarding criminal phases of the vulgar sort in connection with civic affairs in Chicago, and for suggestions to students of civics generally, the recent report of the Citizens' Committee of Chicago is a valuable work. It deals especially with the policies with the police and criminal courts and with paroles and pardons. The committee includes the Rev. R. A. White, Dr. C. E. Bentley, Father Thomas E. Cox, H. C. Staver, N. A. Partridge and James L. Houghtaling. It was appointed in December, 1903.

One need not be a socialist to enjoy Upton Sinclair's socialistic skit on "Our Bourgeois Literature," originally published in *Collier's*, but reproduced in pamphlet by Charles H. Kerr & Company of Chicago. Even a typical bourgeois must be totally lacking in humor not to enjoy this candid picture of his class. Mr. Sinclair is somewhat comprehensive in his enumerations of popular writers as socialists; but if, as he seems to think, the world is made up only of a socialistic and an exploiting class, he is right even when he classifies Tolstoy as a socialist.

Gov. Pingree's "Potato Patch" plan survives in the successful operations of the Philadelphia Vacant Lots Cultivation association, of which R. F. Powell (14 South Broad St.) is superintendent, an account of which down to date may be found in the eighth annual report of that body. Its title is "Farming in the City." The number of acres of vacant lots cultivated rose from 27 in 1897 to 275½ in 1903 and fell to 159¾ in 1904. An appeal for encouragement is made especially

to those "who believe in training men and women thrown out of the rushing industry of a great city, to earn a modest but sure livelihood through intelligent cultivation of the soil.

PERIODICALS

"Direct Legislation and the Single Tax," by Robert Tyson, is the leading article of the Spring number of the *Single Tax Review*. Other matter of special interest to believers in the single tax are abundant. The portraits are of J. H. Whitley, a distinguished single tax member of the British Parliament, and of James R. Brown, one of the best known and most energetic single tax workers of New York.—L. F. P.

The "Confessions of a Commercial Senator" (p. 63), the second installment of which appears in the May number of "The World's Work," is more interesting and enlightening even than the first. No one should miss so graphic a picture of the plutocratic politics of our time. The same number of this most excellent magazine contains also a fair and evidently true account, by Leroy Scott, of the business of "strike-breaking."—L. F. P.

By long odds the most refreshing word that has been uttered of late on the Monroe doctrine is the article in the April *Atlantic* by Rev. Charles F. Dole. "So far," says Mr. Dole, "as we are good friends of the South American peoples, so far as we are friends of our kinsmen over the seas on the continent of Europe, so far as our intentions in South America are honestly humane and philanthropic, we have no need whatever of the Monroe doctrine any longer."—J. H. D.

In all institutions there are individuals who are far ahead of the conservative policy to which they must conform. This is true of churches, of schools, and especially of newspapers. "If we had an independent daily press," says the *Nebraska Independent*, "that was uncontrolled by the trusts and millionaires. It would furnish the information that everybody is so anxious to get. . . . The newspaper men of the United States are keen to do such work as that. They would throw heart and soul into it if they had a chance. But there is no daily that wants such work done."—J. H. D.

There is some delightful reading in Thoreau's *Journal* now running in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Under date of July 21, 1851, there is this naive comment: "It is possible for a man wholly to disappear and be merged in his manners. The thousand and one gentlemen whom I meet, I meet despairingly, and but to part from them, for I am not cheered by the hope of any rudeness from them." And this, under date of August 19, is equally ingenuous: "I fear that the character of my knowledge is from year