

"And when the wintry winds do blow
Will Coal come down, perchance—
Like Ice?" She said, "I do not know;
Perhaps Ice will advance."

WM. E. McKENNA.

BOOKS

THE MOVEMENT TOWARD DEMOCRACY.

Changing America. Studies in Contemporary Society. By Edward Alsworth Ross, Professor of Sociology in the University of Wisconsin, Author of "Social Control," "Sin and Society," etc. Price, \$1.20; postage, 11c. The Century Co., New York.

Among the eleven essays which set forth the views of Professor Ross on "Changing America" not one fails of interest to the thinker who would discover and help to remove the causes that imperil public and private welfare. In his usual keen, penetrating, analytic manner the writer seeks the root of the matter he discusses, and never hedges in his exposure and condemnation of the selfish principle that underlies the conditions that call loudly for reform.

"For the last twenty years," he says in his essay on "Women in Industry," "I have been devoting all my effort to getting deeper into the principles of social organization—the principles by which human beings can work together with the greatest success and happiness; and I can look back to the time when I thought that certain abstract principles were the thing—that we did not have to consider the degree of happiness they gave the people, but that planting ourselves on these immutable principles, we should just go ahead and all would be well. I assure you, the older I grow and the more I explore different social systems, the more fluid these principles become, until now, in social policy, I do not see anything at stake but the welfare of men, women and children."

The Professor's article on "The Suppression of Important News" arraigns the daily press for falsifying the facts about labor in countless instances, a few of which are briefly set forth. As a sample here is one:

"The Tax System is a 'Sacred Cow.' During a banquet of two hundred Singletaxers, at the conclusion of their conference a man fell in a fit. Reporters saw the trifling incident, yet the morning papers, under big headlines, 'Many Poisoned at a Single-Tax Banquet,' told in detail how a large number of banqueters had been ptomaine-poisoned. The conference had formulated a singletax amendment to the State constitution which they intended to present to the people for signature under the new Initiative law. One paper gave a line and a half to this most significant action. No other paper noticed it."

To remedy the evil of newspapers controlled entirely by the "Sacred Cows," or capitalist promoters (who make it a law that nothing damaging to their interests shall be printed), Professor Ross suggests the publicly endowed newspaper, though "as we are not yet wise enough to run a public-owned daily newspaper the funds must come from private sources."

"The re-assertion of Democracy," which Professor Ross forecasts in his papers on "The Middle West"—lately running in the Century Magazine—gives evidence of the near and happy change of attitude in the people who are nominally the factors of popular government. The forward steps taken in direct primaries, commission government of cities, initiative, referendum and recall, as well as other movements that are in certain progress, are showing the growing spirit of reform that is destined to enter into our entire national life.

A. L. M.



MR. ROOSEVELT AS HIS FRIEND SEES HIM.

Theodore Roosevelt the Citizen. By Jacob Riis. New Edition. New York. The Macmillan Co. Price, 50 cents net.

If Mr. Jacob Riis intended this book for campaign literature of the Rooseveltian third term party—no, the Roosevelt third party—he has over-shot the mark somewhat. It is too much like the arguments of anti-suffrage people—apt to make converts to the opposite side. The famous Baron Munchausen could hardly have gone into a political battle without some expurgation of his equally famous "Whatever it was I did it" Memoirs. Mr. Riis, with all his admiration for the very virile and much-alive personality of our energetic ex- (and hopes-to-be) President, should have left just a little credit for what has been done in public life during the past ten years, to somebody else. It would have lent a touch of verisimilitude which the volume sadly needs. It is even less worth serious criticism than most campaign literature. Some sentences deserve mention, however, to show the point of view of the author and the peculiar qualities he admires in his subject. They also throw on the subject a light of a kind that may not be quite what the author intended. Mr. Riis notes, for instance, that Colonel Roosevelt's college chums observed the quality, even then apparent in his character, of talking "very large" and then doing something quite the opposite to the intentions expressed in his speech! And here is Mr. Riis's charming characterization of a quality of Mr. Roosevelt's which ordinary mortals might speak of in different terms: "To me at this end, the perfect balance which has distinguished his mental processes since then was beginning to assert itself. However much he might seem to be speeding to-