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## BOOKS

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### THE HOW AND WHY OF SERVICE.

**Social Service.** By Louis F. Post, Author of "Ethics of Democracy," "Ethical Principles of Marriage and Divorce," etc. Published by A. Wessels, New York. 1909. Price, \$1.00.

I was reading a Presidential plea for ship subsidies when my mind discourteously interrupted me and asked: "Do you suppose he would have written that if he had read—and understood—Post's book on Social Service?" I didn't reply, for how can a man answer all the absurd questions thrown at him by his mind? But that question kept dancing over the newspaper page, and made the rest of the Presidential message taste like scorched spinach.

This is a "built-up" book. The foundation is carefully laid, and the structure grows upon it. A lawyer and a doctor are dining in a restaurant. The conversation turns to a discussion of the question, "How did we get this dinner?" That question opens up the world-wide panorama of social service, takes us into near and remote markets, into factories of many kinds, then back to the forests, the grain fields, the mines, the cattle ranges and the restless water fields that yield fish. Trace "back to the land" all the food, utensils and servers necessary for the serving of a dinner, and you are well along towards the answer to the question, "How did we get this dinner?"

The real answer is involved in the economic law that men seek to satisfy their desires with the least exertion; and in the discussion of uneconomic, unnatural and immoral social conditions we find an answer to the question, "How do so many men get no dinner?" That question is really as important to us as to them. It is not directly discussed in "Social Service," but it couldn't have been kept out of this book, which makes it plain that no man can live in society unless he is served by others, and—what is just as important—that no man should be tolerated in society unless he gives an equal service for every service he receives.

"Social Service" is a brain-made mosaic of twenty-one essays. No reader of *The Public* will be frightened when I add that they are scientific essays; that is, they are essays that deal with social and economic truth; they de-dismalize certain phases of political economy, and one can read them without having an "unabridged" at his elbow. They should be read by the man in business, because he thinks he's in business to get "money"; by the men who put "Oregon boots" on trade, because they forget that a man who makes what others want is employing the others to make what he wants—and the exchange of

these things is trade. A man trades in order to serve himself.

Competition, the alternative of monopoly and the help-meet of co-operation, is "the natural regulator of the line of least resistance," and business, which is "the art of adapting means to ends for social service," follows that line of least resistance when it is not restricted by absurd laws. But, "business is so saturated with monopoly poisons, the business mechanism is so clogged with monopoly obstructions," that the business man should read this book to see that "business is co-operation in general activity—world-wide division of labor in working harness."

This book explains, lucidly, the derangements of the mechanism of social service, analyzes the artificial and natural instruments of social service, shows how feudalism has been superseded by capitalism, gives a clear explanation of capitalism, and then, in a chapter on Karl Marx and Henry George, there are thoughts for persons who swear at as well as for those who swear by Socialism.

The last six chapters of "Social Service" will not appeal to captains of cunning, nor to regulators of private monopoly, because they lead to the truth that for harmonious social service through equal freedom we must abolish privilege by the natural method so clearly stated by Henry George, and so ably advocated by Lloyd George and other British Liberals.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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### THE RIGHT USE OF THINGS.

**Human Equipment.** By Edward Howard Griggs, New York; B. W. Huebsch. Price, 50 cents.

In this compact little volume Mr. Griggs gives another creditable contribution to "The Art of Life" series of which he is the able editor. The realities, not the shams and appearances of life, are presented as the true basis of thought and action. All vexing problems may be solved by the question as to what human service they involve. Money, as a power, is good or harmful as it is made an instrument to elevate or debase the individual or social life. In the course of his economic argument the author incidentally gives some light on the causes of "panics," though there are other viewpoints that remain, we think, to be discussed.

The conclusion of the matter is this: "Nothing can ever be economically desirable that is morally wrong." And it is further added:

To dare in a society such as ours, to disregard conventions that merely hamper life; to refuse to dedicate one's life to the accumulation of material things; to avoid all display dictated by selfish vanity; to cherish friendship rather than society; beauty and not adornment, reality and never appearance; to hold wealth as obligation and all opportunity as

duty; to seek only what is truly worth while, and to seek that always with one's might—that not only redeems one's own life but contributes a moral leaven that helps, beyond our hopes, to lift the heavy and inert mass of society.

A. L. M.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

—Education for Efficiency. By E. Davenport. Published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. 1909.

—Human Beings vs. Things. By Asenath Carver Coolidge. Published by the Hungerford-Holbrook Co., Watertown, N. Y., 1909. Price, \$1.00.

—Memoir of Bishop Seabury. By William Jones Seabury, D. D. Published by Edwin S. Gorham, 251 Fourth Ave., New York, and by Rivingtons, 34 King St., Covent Garden, London. 1908.

—The Economic and Social Problem. By Michael Flurscheim. Author of "Rent, Interest and Wages," "The Real History of Money Island" and "Clue to the Economic Labyrinth," etc. Published by the Jefferson Publishing Co., Xenia, Clay Co., Ill., 1909. Price, 25 cents.

—The Unity of the Spirit. Proceedings and Papers of the First Congress of the National Federation of Religious Liberals. Held at Philadelphia, Pa., April 27-30, 1909. Edited by Charles W. Wendte, D. D. Published by the National Federation of Religious Liberals, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

## PAMPHLETS

### The British Budget.

Under the title of "The Peoples' Budget," Hodder and Stoughton (St. Paul's House, Warwick Square, London, E. C.) publish for one shilling net a full explanation of the Budget in five chapters—its principles, its reception, its fairness, its amendments, and an exhibit of trade promoted and unemployment lessened by it. The finance bill as amended is added, together with a comprehensive index; and the whole is prefaced by five pages from the pen of David Lloyd George, who therein says of the Budget that "the greatest provision of all for unemployment," in his judgment, "is contained in the land clauses."

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### The Ten-Hour Law.

A remarkable piece of legal literature is the brief of Louis D. Brandeis of Boston (assisted by Josephine Goldmark) in the case involving the constitutionality of the Illinois law (pp. 889, 1046, 1069, 1120) limiting the working hours of working women to ten a day. After outlining the policy of Illinois empowering the legislature to enact police regulations in the interest of the public health, this brief considers the legislation of all civilized countries restricting the working hours of women, and the world's experience upon which such legislation is based. To these two heads are devoted over 600 pages of the brief. The result is probably the most comprehensive summary of both subjects to be

found, and the conclusion of it all is that human life is imperilled by the continuous working of women beyond ten hours a day.

## PERIODICALS

Whoever may be interested in the socialist attitude toward the political campaign in Great Britain will be glad to have read the symposium in the *Socialist Review* (30 Blackfriars St., Manchester) for December.

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An excellent condensation of the remarkable brief by Louis D. Brandeis of Boston in the women's 10-hour law case, now pending before the Supreme Court of Illinois, will be found in *The Survey* (New York) for December 17.

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Bolton Hall contributed to the independent (New York), issue of November 25, a neat little satire, "The Fruit of Their Way"; and in the same number there was a welcome article from a military source. William Everett Hicks, which made good its title, "The Military Worthlessness of Foot-Ball."

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John Kenneth Turner's second article on "Barbarous Mexico," in the *American Magazine* (New York) for December is a thrilling and impressively true story of a horrible industrial condition. It is impossible to believe that Turner's stories are lies, without regarding him as a thoroughly degraded man. Yet this is the only answer the financial apologists for the Mexican authorities make to them. It is the apologies and not Turner's tales of personal observation that have the false ring about them. At any rate let us read both.

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In its second article on "The Problem of the Landless Man" the "World's Work," London edition for December, tells of the development of one of the "back-to-the-land" activities of Joseph Fels. The article in the November issue comprehended Mr. Fels' work for the London society for the cultivation of vacant spaces; the present one is on a small holders' experiment out in the country. The writer describes Mr. Fels as "a democrat all through," whose "views on the land question are not mere political opinions, but are his religion."

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"Is an Honest and Sane Newspaper Press Possible?" This question is asked and admirably answered by a brilliant but unnamed contributor to the *American Journal of Sociology* (Chicago) for November. While dealing justly with newspapers, pointing out their good service and recognizing their difficulties, the article deals intelligently also with their shortcomings, as may be inferred from this observation: "Nothing is more vicious and at the same time more utterly gratuitous and inefficient than" the "destruction of the news value of the so-called 'news columns.'" In the same issue Chas.