

bald Constable & Co., Ltd.), that always delightful author, Bernard Shaw, makes a socialistic argument in support of the policy.

Mr. Shaw contributes to this work two of his qualifications for the delightful playwright that he is—charming literary style and superficiality of treatment. In many respects superficiality is a genuine merit, for what is needed is for the most part not profound argument, but vital presentation, and this little book is really almost as interesting as a historical novel. One is astonished at times at the author's woolly analyses, as when he fails to see the economic identity of private ground rent and interest on ancient public debts. Both are only different governmental modes of taxing some persons for the benefit of others; yet Mr. Shaw identifies the former with land and the latter with capital. He points unerringly, however, to the special difficulty of the "housing" question, when he refers to "the extraordinary manner in which the question of cost price is complicated by the phenomenon of economic rent," and expresses a tremendous truth, but one which brings forth only a slight echo from his own economic philosophy, when he describes the phenomenon of economic rent as "that rock on which all civilizations ultimately split and founder."

Referring to the same subject farther on, he insists upon the admission "that until the municipality owns all the land within its boundaries, and is as free to deal with it and build upon it as our ground landlords are at present, the problem of housing cannot be satisfactorily solved." If Mr. Shaw were to consider the economic effect of making each parcel of land within the municipal boundaries subject to annual taxes approximately equal to its ground rent possibilities, he might realize that the problem of housing would satisfactorily solve itself without our making a landlord of the municipality.

But apart even from the advantages of that realization, Mr. Shaw, as might be expected of him, makes a dry subject interesting and a dark one luminous when he discusses municipal trading. His conception of the London shopkeeper is one of his entertaining touches. "The small shopkeeper does not understand finance nor banking nor insurance nor sanitary science. The social distinction between him and the working class is so small that he clings to it with a ferocity inconceivable by a peer, and will concede nothing to a laborer that is not either begged humbly as a favor or extorted by force of trade minimum. A proposal to give women living wages instantly brings before him a vision of 'the girl at home,' encouraged in uppishness and asking another shilling a week." That is not a bad description of our own more or less "penniless plutes."

MAYOR JONES'S LETTERS OF LABOR AND LOVE.

These letters were written by the late Mayor Jones of Toledo to his workmen, and delivered to them in sheets with their wages. During his lifetime they were privately printed in a little volume for circulation among Mayor Jones's friends. Not until after his death was the idea of general publication considered. But they are now given to the public with an introduction and explanation by Mr. Jones's close friend, Brand Whitlock. Of course the spirit of brotherhood runs through them all. It expresses itself in many ways. Over and over its expression takes some such form as this: "If you know of any way or any plan by which the liberties of *all the men* employed in this shop may be enlarged, by which the conditions may be improved, we hope that you will kindly communicate this knowledge to us. As we said a year ago, you may feel perfectly free to write anonymously if you have any suggestions to which you do not care to put your name." Is it any wonder that Mayor Jones had the love of his brother workmen, or that his shop could, in spite of his expectations, underbid other shops for important work?—[Letters of Labor and Love. By Samuel M. Jones. With an introduction by Brand Whitlock. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company.]

THE IMPENDING CRISIS.

This analysis of prosperity is a very faithful one. It is brief, pointed, clear and fundamentally sound.

Of course it deals with the subject of government, for we find government related in some way to the common understanding of prosperity; but the author places the idea of government on a higher plane than is usual with governmentalists. No system of government, he says, can have a permanent existence without justice as its primary conception. And as justice implies liberty, or equality of rights, privilege is an anomaly in government. His ideal of government is one which maintains conditions of "free land, free trade and free men."

The author's economic philosophy is a delight in comparison with the incoherent miscellany that usually passes for economic philosophy. On the subject of interest, however, while he is clear and strong he is incomplete; for, although he very justly distinguishes interest from usury, and attributes interest to the element of time, he does not explain why or how time produces interest.

But he leaves nothing to be desired on other economic points, either in substance or in method of presentation. He explains the conflict of labor and

capital by showing that "capital is divorced from labor because labor is divorced from land;" that "a tax upon imports is virtually a tax upon exports;" that public revenues can be raised in only two ways—"by a tax on land or by a tax on labor;" that "labor is taxed wherever the products of labor are taxed;" and that exchanges of wealth are in the last analysis exchanges of labor. The presentation of the money question, also, is an excellent piece of work.

The author's thrust at hypocritical employers' unions is well put and well deserved. Of them he writes: "Their suggestions, summed up, amount to saying: 'Yes, I believe that stealing is wrong, but please do not stop me from stealing; I believe in the equality of all men, but please do not make me equal with other men by taking special privileges from me.'"—[The Impending Crisis, or Prosperity Analyzed. By George Whichelle. New York and Washington: The Neale Publishing Company. Price, \$1.00.]

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—The Preparation of Manuscripts for the Printer. By Frank H. Vizetelly. New York and London: Funk & Wagnall's Company. Price, 75 cents net. To be reviewed.

—The Changing Order. A Study of Democracy. By Oscar Lovell Triggs, Ph. D. Series I. Chicago: The Oscar L. Triggs Publishing Co. Price, \$1.50 postpaid. To be reviewed.

—Civics; Studies in American Citizenship. By Waldo H. Sherman. New York and London: Macmillan. This book, "for students who have at least reached high school age and are ready to work out thoughtfully and independently, political problems," seems admirably adapted to the purposes of education in the details of American citizenship. One part is a text book, while another is a guide for practical experiment. Its comprehensiveness and accuracy make it useful for reference as well as study.

PAMPHLETS

Readers of Tolstoy's "Great Iniquity" who infer from it that the single tax movement has lost ground in England will be interested in reading the address of Charles Trevelyan, a leading Liberal member of the British Parliament, on Land Taxation and the Use of Land (No. XX. of Coming Men on Coming Questions, edited by W. T. Stead, London), in which Mr. Trevelyan illuminates an able discussion of the subject as a burning political issue, with information regarding its recent history. Mr. Trevelyan, who has been in Parliament since 1899, is the son of Sir George Otto Trevelyan, a nephew and the biographer of Lord Macaulay. He has taken a distinct lead in parliament on the question of the taxation of land values, is a single tax moderate, and a man of whom Stead remarks that "on all the great fighting questions he has always been found in the right place at the right