

o' breakfast food, and I had to chop it up for Mr. Odd's breakfast.—Chicago Daily News.

"Is everything true that has been said about the water cure?" questioned the pastor.

"Certainly not," replied the Funstonite; "why, the actual number of fatal cures is less than seventy-five per cent. of the number reported."

G. T. E.

When at last a physician came and settled among them, the people wondered.

"Nobody is ever sick here," they said. "Of course not, with no medical assistance at hand," said the doctor, smiling at their simplicity in spite of his determination to be courteous.—Life.

Cahill—Religion is a great thing, Dennis—a foine thing!

Casey—To be sure ut is;—Oi get into more foights about religion than anything ilse!—Puck.

"Did you hear the wild rumor from Washington?"

"No, what is it?"

"The Congressional Record is to have a colored supplement."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

BOOK NOTICES.

It would make a marked difference in the unfortunate trend of political thought in this country—or, more accurately, lack of thought—if all Americans could read Goodwin Smith's interesting monograph on "Commonwealth and Empire," recently published by the Macmillans. Whatever we at home may try to make ourselves believe about the matter, Prof. Smith is right in saying that in the estimation of the world at large the paramount issue confronting us "is that between Commonwealth and Empire;" and, as he truly adds, "never has a nation's choice been more important to mankind." On the sinister side of that issue this distinguished thinker observes, what all who reflect may see, that three distinct but converging forces are of worth—plutocracy, militarism and imperialism. Plutocracy is the new force which revives and utilizes the other two. Already it may be said to have begun the process of practically possessing itself of supreme favor, without any formal change of the American constitution. Such subtle changes are not unknown to history. There is at least one historic example of the furtive extinction of popular government without change of constitutional forms by the action of wealth, and Prof. Smith cites it. He refers to Florence, which "was converted from a republic into a principality under the absolute government of the Medici." Of imperialism, into which plutocracy has plunged us, Prof. Smith gives the warning that it has always had but one ending and that is disaster. Spain was a vast empire when the reign of Philip II. began, and the empire drained away her life blood as a nation. This is the experience of all empires. "One after another they pass in long procession over the scene of history to their inevitable grave. The same

end awaited the empires of the Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Mede, the Persian, the Macedonian, the Roman, the Frank, the Saracen, the Spaniard, the Bourbon, that of Napoleon. All were artificial, and, whatever transient purposes they might serve, had in them from the beginning the seeds of decay and death." To thoughtful Americans these examples are prophetic. But Prof. Smith is confident that with the wreckage of American Imperialism American nationality will revive. For nature seems to have set no bound to the life of a nation. "It may languish, but it does not expire, and one day its vigor returns." Though the American Commonwealth is now under a cloud, "the sun of humanity is behind the cloud. The cloud will pass away and the sun will shine forth again. The aged will not live to see it, but younger men will."

In "Blood and Gold in South Africa" (London: International Arbitration Association, 40 Outer Temple, W. E. Price, 6 cents), by G. H. Ferris, a precise and extended answer is made to Conan Doyle's pamphlet on the Boer war. Persons who are sufficiently interested in that war to read Doyle's pamphlet ought to follow it by reading Ferris's reply.

Home Rule and Tax Reform in Colorado.

Advocates of home rule in taxation should be interested in and lend their aid to the campaign now in progress in Colorado, for a constitutional amendment allowing counties desiring to do so to adopt land value taxation for local purposes, as is done in New Zealand and elsewhere in Australasia. The resolution submitting this amendment to popular vote passed both houses of the Colorado legislature by a two-thirds majority. An attempt subsequently made in the interest of land grant railroads and other speculative real estate interests to repeal the resolution was defeated by a close vote. The same special interests are now canvassing the state against the measure. They are spending money freely for this purpose, while the friends of the measure have but little to spend. As usual, what it is everybody's business to pay for nobody pays for. That should be remedied. It is to the interest of the whole country that this Colorado amendment be adopted, for its adoption would surely be followed by the adoption of similar measures in other states. We therefore call upon the people of Illinois to help the friends of home rule and just taxation in Colorado. Money is needed to send speakers through the state and to supply the people with explanatory literature. For the purpose of raising such a fund by national subscription a National Australasian Tax Reform association has been organized. Hon. James W. Bucklin, of Grand Junction, Col., is president. Lawson Purdy, of New York, is secretary, and August Lewis, of the same state, is treasurer. An Illinois branch of this association has been formed, which will receive contributions, either in bulk or in monthly installments, and forward them to the national treasurer. The amendment is to be voted upon at the Colorado election in November next, and funds are needed NOW. Send contributions to U. A. H. Greene, secretary, 138 Jackson boulevard, Chicago.

EDWARD OSGOOD BROWN,
Chairman Illinois Committee for the Promotion of the Australasian Tax System.
U. A. H. GREENE, Secretary.

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