

nor ever will see, this they set much value on. But this is very much the same as if thou shouldst be grieved because those who have lived before thee did not praise thee.—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.

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## BOOKS

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### CITY GOVERNMENT.

**The Government of American Cities.** A Program of Democracy. By Horace E. Deming. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

Mr. Deming drives a straight and true course between the theory that municipal government is politics and the theory that it is business. Regarding as fundamental the "difference between the policy-determining and the administrative sides" of municipal government, he would keep politics out of its administration and business out of its politics. By politics he means municipal politics, of course; for national politics is as much out of place as business is, in determining municipal policies. From these premises, the doctrine of local self government in respect of all local concerns is the inevitable conclusion which Mr. Deming reaches with irrefutable argument.

The influence of a "goo-goo" superstition is noticeable when he refers to the one-time reformation of the City Council of Chicago. It was no doubt an accomplishment to rid that city council of the dominance of the type of grafter who takes his graft raw; but when these were succeeded by a much more expensive set who want their graft cooked, the advantages of the reform are at least questionable. The Chicago Council has for several years been under the control of the type of influences which Mr. Deming describes with condemnation at page 193—"the enjoyers of special privilege," who are "constantly watchful of the conduct of city government and constantly active in securing the election and appointment of public officials favorable to their business plans." When reform members of a city council evolute out of poverty and into wealth, without any very visible reason for it but *pari passu* with the strengthening of privileged interests, it seems almost satirical to write of it as a body in whose honesty the people of a city confide. Yet this is what Mr. Deming does write of the Chicago Council.

In its spirit and purpose, however, and apart from some such pardonable slips in the use of illustrative material, Mr. Deming's work is the best since Howe's "City the Hope of Democracy;" and it is as emphatic in denying that failure in city government in the United States is failure of democracy. It is the denial of democracy to our cities, he argues, that has made them failures. They have been as subject provinces under State

control. And he regards the city as the natural battle ground between special privilege and democracy because it is in the city that "the struggle between privilege and the common good is most constant and most intense."



### A PROPAGANDA STORY.

**The Soul of the World:** By Estella Bachman. Equitist Publishing House, Sta. A, Pasadena, Cal. Price, \$1.00.

A rough-and-ready way of classifying works of fiction may recognize two groups, in the first of which the authors spend their art on analyzing and describing the world of life as they find it, and in the other of which we encounter the people the authors would have put into the world if they had had the making of it. In the latter group by some natural process of their creation are to be found most stories of propaganda, and "The Soul of the World" is no exception to this rule.

It is a well-written story with a style above the average of its type of fiction. The handsome, earnest characters have deep, wonderful eyes that flash at every climax in their strenuous conversations; and they fairly fall on top of each other in their sudden leaps upon the propaganda bait held out to them. While, on the other hand, there are dull, pompous, selfish persons, apparently lacking in good looks and eyes that have the power of flashing, who fail to grasp the proffered doctrines, and sometimes say stupid and irrelevant things about them. But where is the writer who believes that he has truths to offer that the world needs, who can entirely escape this naïveté in the construction of his dramatic persons?

The propaganda teachings of the book are chiefly two, with the introduction of the word "va" for a common gender pronoun in the third person, as a side issue. Second in importance is the theory of "annular evolution," the arguments for which do not seem very convincing, but it is of course difficult to introduce exhaustive arguments into a work of fiction, and Mrs. Bachman Brokaw has probably been wise in giving a picturesque rather than an argumentative presentation of the theory. And it is undoubtedly for the same reason that in connection with the chief propaganda doctrine of her book, that of "a balanced land tenure," she has presented no argument, that is to say, no argument to prove its soundness; chapters are devoted to arguments for its propaganda value. It is even difficult to gather exactly what she deems to be a balanced land tenure, but perhaps the following statement, made by the hero of the story, is as clear as any:

I have discovered that the labor applied to the maintenance of roads—or, more precisely, of those portions of the earth that must be used in common—results in giving advantages to some locations over others. Ricardo defined rent as the excess which