

all sorts upon them; and more than this, the conditions of the problems have so changed that the questions which thoughtful citizens are facing, whether in rural communities or in towns from the smallest to the largest, or in national or international affairs, are quite different from those of even a decade ago." Professor Small adds that nobody who is seriously studying social questions can afford to leave this book out of his reach.

The further remark may be made that every one, whether a student of social questions or not, will find this encyclopedia an indispensable recourse if he wishes to be intelligent about subjects that constantly demand his attention. The subjects, ideally inclusive in scope, are treated comprehensively yet briefly; and relative values are observed with remarkable acuteness. As to accuracy, we gladly testify to the skill in fair elucidation and exact statement with which all the subjects within the sphere of *The Public's* special work have been treated.

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### THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF SOCIALISM

**The Spiritual Significance of Modern Socialism.** By John Spargo, author of "The Bitter Cry of the Children," etc. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York.

That there should be any spiritual significance at all to a movement which is commonly supposed and by many of its leaders declared to be essentially materialistic, may very well excite surprise; but Mr. Spargo attributes to socialism a many-sidedness, including a spiritual side. He therefore criticizes the socialists who distrust and deride all interpretations of socialism other than the purely economic, denying all ideals and boasting of their own selfishness. But his criticism is gentle, for he regards them as superior to their creed. While their creed would rob socialism of "its matchless spiritual appeal," "the nobility of their lives" is none the less inspiring. Mr. Spargo also startles the conventional critic of socialism, as he doubtless does many a socialist, by declaring that "the only equality aimed at by the socialist is equality of right, equality of opportunity." If that were socialism, we could all be socialists. The only question among the adversaries of plutocracy would only be one of method. It is right at this point, however, that fundamental differences of opinion might gain entrance. The socialism that insists upon equality of opportunity in the use of what physical nature and social evolution offer, is one thing; but the socialism which puts into the same category with natural and social opportunities the individual utilizations thereof, is quite another thing. The latter is destructive of individual liberty; the former is conservative of both individual liberty and social solidarity, because it holds each to its functional sphere.

It is not improbable that Mr. Spargo recognizes

this distinction, even if vaguely, for he regards it as "unfortunate that socialism is commonly conceived of as the antithesis of individualism," whereas in his interpretation the point "cannot be too strongly emphasized that modern socialism does not aim at, nor hope for, equality and uniformity." Its ideal is "not a world of mediocre equality but of glorious inequality, such as only a true equality of opportunity can ever make possible."

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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—Comrades. By Thomas Dixon, Jr. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1909.

—Comrade Kropotkin. By Victor Robinson. Published by The Altrurians, 12 Mt. Morris Park West, New York. 1908. Price \$1.00.

—Artificial Waterways and Commercial Development. By A. Barton Hepburn. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1909. Price, \$1.00 net.

—Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor for September, 1908. Industrial Accidents. Mexican Labor in the United States. Published by the Department of Commerce and Labor at Washington.

—Fortieth Annual Insurance Report of the State of Illinois. Part II—Life, Casualty and Assessment Insurance and Fraternal Societies. Published by Fred W. Potter, Insurance Superintendent, Springfield, Ill.

—Economic Influences Upon Educational Progress in the United States, 1820-1850. By Frank Tracy Carlton, professor of Economics and History in Albion College. A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin. Published by University of Wisconsin, Madison. Price, 50 cents.

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## PAMPHLETS

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### The Real Land Reform.

Josiah C. Wedgwood, of the Wedgwood potteries and a member of the British Parliament, has celebrated his election as president of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, by the publication (Land Values Publication Department, 376 Strand, London W. C.) of a penny pamphlet on "Real Land Reform." It is a concise explanation of the principal question now agitating British politics.

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### British Poverty.

"The Rise and Progress of Poverty in England, from the Norman Conquest to Modern Times" ("Land Values," Publication Department, 13 Dunbar street, Glasgow, 71 North street, Keighley, and 376 Strand, London, price 6 cents), is hardly longer than its title, yet in its 82 pages of large print it tells the wonderful story of British labor as it may be gleaned from huge volumes of English history. It is here put into straightforward narrative. The author, W. G. Wilkins, has a simple and attractive style,