

tions, for there is no doubting his sincerity and earnestness.

Though serious, the book is not without humor. Sample: "Where George Washington carried the surveyor's compass through the pathless woods and started the advancing hosts of American conquerors over the Alleghanies, what have we today? Pittsburg."

C. F. O'BRIEN.

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HAMILTONIAN IDEALS.

The Business of Congress. By Samuel W. McCall, Member of Congress from Massachusetts. The Columbia University Press, New York, 1911. Price \$1.50.

It is to be deplored that so inviting a field and subject should be marred to an unfortunate degree by a narrow spirit of partisan egotism and handicapped by a point of view that shrinks from the present awakening of actual democracy as from an impious thing. This volume is a revised series of lectures delivered at Columbia University in the winter of 1908-1909 and, as the author states: "It was my chief purpose to portray the important processes of legislation . . . and to give a study of government with Congress as the central theme." The unquestionable value of the former has been submerged in the latter and the result, instead of being a scholarly, historical textbook which one might naturally suppose would be presented to university undergraduates, is, in the main, a cloth-bound, partisan polemic in which the special pleading of the stand-pat conservative often stands forth in naive candor.

Mr. McCall's theory seems to be that Congress should be representative of special interests, for he writes: "If we could have industrial and financial captains like Morgan and Carnegie, labor leaders like Gompers and Mitchell, railroad builders like Hill and Harriman, with a sprinkling of men chosen by the universities, as in England—our Congress would certainly not be a weaker body, and it would perhaps more fully epitomize the nation, represent its industrial and social life, and we should have representative government in even a truer sense than that in which it now exists."

Evidently Senator Guggenheim's scandalous Senatorial seat is a step in the right direction, and any objection to Lorimer's election should be based on the fact that he is at best merely a deputy and that Mr. Hines, the lumber trust's president, should assume his duties direct. How far a sprinkling of university officials from endowed universities would leaven such a collection is a nice question which probably the author alone is capable of working out. But to a mind capable of dividing capital into a multitude of representative law-making interests and retaining labor as a single consolidated voice many things are possible,

although it is doubtful if much can result of value to present and future generations in this "study of government with-Congress as the central theme."

Throughout, the book is blemished with stand-pat reactionary pleadings, and in closing it devotes considerable scorn to Roosevelt, the only Republican President since the war who gave even an erratic trace of progressive thought.

The opportunity of the Columbia lectures delivered by Mr. McCall was to establish a scholarly, historical work, with as much intellectual analysis or digression as he chose; yet apparently it made no greater appeal, in the main, to the author than to attest his personal bias toward the Hamiltonian and aristocratic distrust of democracy with which the Republican party has identified itself.

C. J. P.

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COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

City Government by Commission. By Ford H. MacGregor, B. A., Instructor in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. Bulletin of University of Wisconsin, No. 423. Price, 40 cents.

An analysis of the commission form of government for cities which enumerates as essentials only those features that are autocratic, treating reservations of power to the people as non-essentials, is not likely to commend very highly the book which makes that kind of analysis. The essentials of commission government of which the Des Moines rather than the Galveston plan is the type, and which is called "commission government" for short, are *efficiency with democracy*. The efficiency is secured by centralization of power and responsibility; the democracy by making those in power *responsible* at all times to the people whose servants they are. Anything short of this may be called commission government, but it is not the kind of government that is most widely known by that name. To argue that the initiative, referendum and recall are not essentials, because they are adaptable to others than the commission form, is to disclose some inaptitude for analyzing civic relationships. As a report on details, however, the book will be handy for reference until its collection of facts is obsolete.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—The Passing of the Idle Rich. By Frederick Townsend Martin. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1911. Price, \$1.00 net.

—Fifty-third Annual Insurance Report of the State of Illinois. Part III—Casualty and Assessment Insurance and Fraternal Societies. 1911. By Fred W. Potter, Insurance Superintendent. Printed by the Illinois State Journal Co., Springfield, Ill.