

EUROPEAN CITIES AT WORK. By Frederick C. Howe, Ph.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.75.

MODERN CITIES. Progress of the awakening for their betterment here and in Europe. By Horatio M. Pollock, Ph.D. and William S. Morgan, Ph.D. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company. \$1.50.

Dr. Howe's book on *European Cities at Work* discusses mainly the social and economic problems and activities of German cities. Two chapters deal with particular cities—Düsseldorf as a concrete illustration of municipal socialism and Frankfort-on-the-Main, as an example of business administration. Most of the other chapters on German cities discuss some particular phase of municipal action, such as town planning and city building, the housing problem, means of transit, sources of revenue and the budget. Two chapters discuss the city government and the type of business men who manage municipal affairs, and one offers an explanation of the German city.

In the descriptive chapters, Mr. Howe presents an optimistic and enthusiastic account of German city conditions written in an interesting style which should appeal to a wide circle of readers. Here is set forth the tangible results of the community spirit and high civic ideals which should inspire Americans to raise their own standards and accomplishments. At the same time attention is called to the fact that the housing problem is not solved even in Germany, though he does not consider whether the fact that in German cities from one-half to three-fourths of the population live in one and two room dwellings (p. 161) may not serve to explain much of the larger scope of social activities by the municipal authorities.

On the other hand, in attempting an explanation of German municipal success, Dr. Howe is distinctly less satisfactory; and this phase of the subject calls for keener analysis than has yet been

made. The author lays the chief emphasis on the large powers of home rule; but in doing so overlooks the central control of police and sanitary administration in most of the large cities, and barely mentions the system of administrative supervision over the local authorities. He recognizes a connection between the direct payment of taxes by the body of voters and economical and efficient administration, but at the same time considers our American system of local taxes much better than the German; but he does not discuss the dilemma thus presented as between the economic and political results of methods of taxation. Moreover, he fails to answer the question whether the control of the municipal government by business men and land owners in Germany may not explain the retention of the income tax and the relatively small proportion of direct taxes paid on real estate—even including the unearned increment tax.

In discussing the British cities—which have been more fully described in an earlier work—attention is given to municipal ownership and garden suburbs. But what has been gained in these lines seems to the author to be more than balanced by the lack of municipal autonomy and the monopoly of land ownership, and the general impression presented is much more gloomy than that of other American writers on municipal government in Great Britain.

From the high praise given to German municipal achievements, the relatively discouraging report of British conditions and the entire omission of any reference to French cities, a critic of democracy might suggest that municipal success in Europe appears to be in inverse ratio to the degree of political democracy. The possibility of this deduction might well have received some attention and reply from a staunch upholder of democracy. To the writer of this review it at least seems demonstrable that democracy and efficient municipal government are nor necessarily identical; and that the problem in this country of securing effi-