

with it the consequence that the division of the produce among the body of owners must be a public act, performed according to rules laid down by the community."

It is well known that attempts to secure this state of things have often been of such a lawless nature as to bring Socialism into utter disrepute. Whereas Sociology claims to be the cure of these and kindred evils. It has been defined as "the science which investigates the laws regulating human society, its development, and the progress of civilization." Sociology, according to Herbert Spencer, is so supremely difficult and important a subject that one requires, in order to enter upon the study of it, to be almost master of all the sciences, and especially Biology. Its professed aim is the improvement of Society. This is without doubt needed, and has been sought by the sages of antiquity, Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Seneca, Cicero, and many other profound thinkers.

Sociology, therefore, is not a discovery of the nineteenth century. It has, however, of late come violently to the front. It is the gospel of the moment in everybody's mouth. It is the subject matter of much of the reasoning and wrangling of the shop and market place. It is discussed in the halls of legislation and in the innumerable societies and conventions of the day, and its problems bulk largely in the daily press and in popular novels read by the million.

And what is the outcome of all this stir? Wide-spread discontent—a consensus of opinion well-nigh universal, that the present state of even the most advanced Christian society is eminently unsatisfactory. The forces which mould human relations and "make for righteousness" are unrecognized or ignored by the legislators and educators of the race. So Spencer and his followers think; and he does not hesitate to fasten the charge of ignorance in this respect upon the intelligent and cultured people of Britain, Europe and America. Scientists, and especially physicists, are in this condition. They are familiar with the laws and forces of their own special fields of investigation, but are incapable of dealing successfully with the infinitely complex problems that arise from