

Book Reviews

By H. S. ROSS.

HOW TO LIVE (Rules for Healthful Living Based on Modern Science), by Irving Fisher, Chairman, Professor of Political Economy, Yale University and Eugene Lyman Fisk, M.D., Director of Hygiene of the Institute. Publishers Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and London. Price, \$1.50 net.

"Public health is the foundation on which reposes the happiness of the people and the power of a country. The care of the public health is the first duty of a statesman."—Disraeli.

Ex-President Taft in his Foreword says: "It may be well claimed that the care of individual and family health is the first and most patriotic duty of a citizen."

In response to a popular demand this valuable health book (fifteenth edition) has been thoroughly rewritten and the authors have added one hundred pages of new matter. Problems raised by the war are discussed and many illustrations and diagrams have been added, and rules and illustrations for a number of helpful physical exercises are also included.

PRODUCTION AND TAXATION IN CANADA

(From The Farmer's Standpoint), by W. C. Good, B.A.; published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Limited, 25-27 Melinda Street, Toronto; agents for The Garden City Press, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q. Price, \$1.00.

This is one of the most fundamental contributions toward the solution of our reconstruction problem and no political leader, business man, rural reformer or student of public affairs should fail to read it.

In an appreciation by T. A. Crerar, ex-Minister of Agriculture, it is pointed out that the author, a practical farmer, has had the benefit of a university and agricultural college education and has for some years been known as one of the most intelligent and forward looking students of rural economics in Canada. He deals with cold facts and presents them in a convincing manner and urges speedy and drastic reform in our whole economic system if Canada is to pass comfortably through the trying years of reconstruction.

In an intimate preface the author says, "I gradually learned how impossible it was for the individual to fight successfully against the pressure of general economic conditions. Hence the importance of 'Science' to the average farmer under present conditions, fell greatly in my estimation, and I perceived that the present decline in Canadian agriculture would not, and could not, be remedied merely by the study of those 'physical' and 'natural' sciences which underlay successful farm management. These science I had studied and had attempted to apply. The results were, however, discouraging. My attention was therefore directed to an investigation of general economic conditions as they affect Canadian farmers, and in this volume I give to the public a statement of the conclusions to which my investigations led."

The author is opposed to "a crude individualism" and thinks "we have forgotten justice." He adds: "We have ignored the vital import of Equity in Distribution. Special privilege has run riot and, if history has any meaning, will fight to the last. If it succeeds it will bring about political and social corruption and national downfall. . . . Surely at last we can make an honest effort to establish in this, our native land, a Kingdom of Righteousness, without which we cannot possibly obtain abiding prosperity. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

AMERICANIZED SOCIALISM (A Yankee View of Capitalism), by James MacKaye; published by Boni & Liveright, of New York. \$1.25 net. Socialists differ about the philosophy and the tactics of socialism, but the author claims they agree about its program. He quotes from an article by Morris Hillquit who, he thinks, is probably the best authority on orthodox socialism in America. The following appeared in the Metropolitan Magazine for July, 1912:

"Stated in . . . concrete terms, the Socialist program requires the public or collective ownership and agencies for the production and distribution of wealth. The land, mines, railroads, steamboats, telegraph and telephone lines, mills, factories, and modern machinery. This is the main program, and the ultimate aim of the whole Socialist movement, the political creed of all Socialists. It is the unflinching test of Socialist adherence and admits of no limitation, extension, or variation. Whoever accepts this program is a Socialist; whoever does not, is not."

The author claims the program of Socialism rests both on a material and a moral foundation and reminds his readers that he does not in this book deal with the philosophy of Karl Marx. He is concerned more particularly with the moral foundation "because the justification of any proposed program must, in the final analysis, be a moral one. The moral foundation of Socialism is to be found in the philosophy of utility, which tests all acts or courses of action by their presumable power to promote the happiness of mankind; and if Socialism cannot be justified by its usefulness it cannot be justified at all." Some of the chapter titles show the scope of the book: The Per- version of Property; Why The Capitalist Is Not a Robber; Applying Engineering to Politics; What is Efficiency? What is Democracy? How to Combine Democracy With Efficiency and the Transition to Socialism.

THE REAL THING.

Here is a story told by a man interested in the early formation of a Ministry of Health. Several East End boys were sent by the Fresh Air Fund into the country for a week's holiday. While they were away a farmer gave them each a glass of milk to drink. "Well, my lads, and how do you like it?" he asked. "It's fine," piped up one youngster. "I do wish our milkman kept a cow!"

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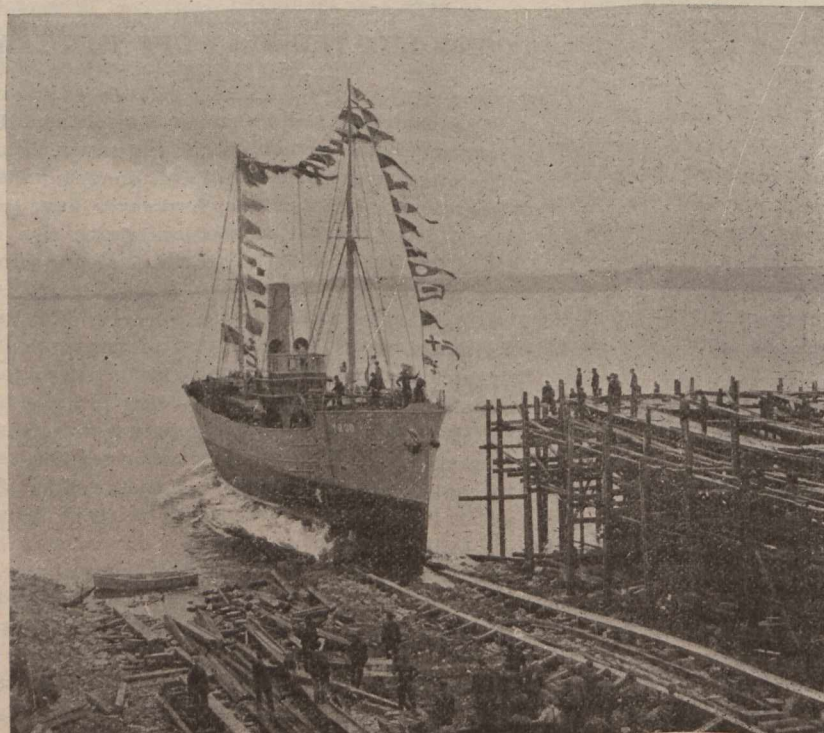
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