

Book Notices.

"History of Socialism in the United States." By Morris Hillquit. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 371. Price, \$1.50 net.

The great question of the times is the social and economic question. In many respects it takes precedence of either the religious or political question, indeed it is a part of both. Social science is a comparatively new one. Its principles have not been established, its grammar has not been written. It is hard to find a record of its progress. Hence the importance of this book, the only one, so far as we know, that gives a systematic treatment of this important movement.

"The nineteenth century," says our author, "was marked by a period in the industrial evolution unprecedented in the annals of history. The small manufacturer of the preceding ages was swept away by the gigantic factory system of modern times." While a few men fell heir to all the benefits of the process, many skilled mechanics became mere cogs in the wheel of the industrial machine. The social contrasts of luxury and poverty became more glaring.

Socialism tries to solve the problem herein involved. It was at first a humanitarian rather than a political movement. The early socialist described the happy country of Utopia (the Greek for nowhere) as an ideal community where all wrongs were righted.

Karl Marx sixty years ago organized a new or scientific socialism. He did for sociology what Darwin later did for biology. He showed socialistic development to be an evolution of the economic tendencies of the age.

The first part of this book treats the early socialistic and communistic experiments of the United States, as the Shakers, the Harmony Society, the Oneida Community, the Owenite and Fourier experiments at Brook Farm and elsewhere, and later the Mormon organization. The larger part of the work, however, is devoted to the modern or scientific development of socialism, the International Working Men's Association and Labour Union, the Henry George Movement, the Knights of Labour and the Socialist Trade and Labour Alliance.

In Great Britain and partly in France and Italy, socialism has been manifested in municipal ownership of public franchises—which in the United States are chiefly exploited by capitalists—and in great co-operative societies for the manufacture and distribution of commercial necessities, as the Rochdale, Saltair, and other organizations.

In Germany socialism has become a strongly political organization, and in Russia it lies like an Enceladus beneath the quaking soil which heaves with the throes of revolution. Socialism inspires the moral and political enthusiasm of its advocates and has created a vigorous propaganda, both spoken and written, of its aims and objects.

"It has penetrated," says the author of this book, "into the broad masses of the American working men, it is gaining adherents among other classes of the population and is rapidly invading all parts of the country. And still the movement has apparently by far not yet reached the full measure of its development."

The socialists aver that private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the increasing uncertainty of livelihood, and division of society into hostile classes—the capitalists and wage workers. It gives the former control of the government, the press, the universities and schools. Socialism advocates the public ownership of all means of transportation and other public utilities, the revenue from which shall be wholly applied to the increase of wages, shortening of hours of labour, and cheapening of goods. It demands state or national insurance of working people; the inauguration of public industries; of a system of public credit; municipal aid in books, clothing, and food for the education of all; equal civil and political rights for men and women; the initiative and referendum.

The Socialist Labour Party demands further the abolition of all classes, restoration of the land and of means of production and distribution to the people as a collective body, the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth for the present system of industrial war and social disorder, and a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise