

## Reviews of Newest Books

(Continued from Page 8)

uation however is not war but peace. The white world's inability to frame a constructive settlement, the perpetuation of intestine hatreds, and the menace of fresh white civil wars complicated by the spectre of social revolutions, evoke the dread thought that the late war may be merely the first stage in a cycle of ruin."

There is undoubtedly much force in what Dr. Stoddard writes and we should be grateful to him for the splendid work he has done in this important field. But many are beginning to wonder whether or not our difficulties would be solved if we could but find the natural law a human association—some fair method of exchanging work so that we might have equal freedom and equal opportunity the natural resources everywhere being free for use rather than profit. Will it not be possible regardless of color for individuals to cooperate so that individual initiative may be preserved and the laws of competition and supply and demand actually operate—which is not the case today—due of course to special privilege. The author thinks: "We whites will have to abandon our tacit assumption of permanent domination over Asia, while Asiatics will have to forego their dream of migration to white lands and penetration of Africa and Latin America. Unless some such understanding is arrived at, the world will drift into a gigantic race-war—and genuine race-war means war to the knife. Such a hideous catastrophe should be abhorrent to both sides."

**THE JOKE ABOUT HOUSING.** By Charles Harris Whitaker. Publishers, Marshall, Jones & Co., 212 Summer Street, Boston, Mass. Price, \$2.00.

The more houses we build, the more houses cost to build so the poorer grows the quality, the smaller grows the size and the smaller grows the rooms. Then comes the flats and apartments, the more we build the poorer they seem to grow, the smaller the rooms and the smaller their size and at the same time the rents go higher and higher and the process still goes on as far as the rents are concerned and will go on unless we decide it is not necessary to live in houses.

It is pointed out that the system of land tenure on this continent grew out of the plan of turning the public domain over on easy terms to land-owning farmers. The result is that the modest fortunes of a large portion of our people are founded on the unearned increment from the rise in the price of real estate. It is now easy to repudiate the system even tho it seems clear the system is not in the interest of the people generally.

"We boast" is stated "that our own democracy means not Equality, but Equality of opportunity."

There can be no equality of opportunity for the new-born in a nation where lands are no longer free and where a portion of the population live off the socially created rental values of land."

The author thinks industry and agriculture must balance each other so that those who depend upon centralized industry shall have free access to the soil and to a community life; that those who till the soil on an extensive basis—in dairying or truck-farming, shall have access to a community such as will afford them and their wives and children full opportunity for their mental and spiritual development. He also advocates the communal ownership of land under which all additions to land values revert to the community and constitute a source of revenue. He admires the Letchworth garden city plan which he writes "rests upon the economic concept that transportation is waste, unless compelled by exigencies beyond the control of man such as soil and climate."

**HOUSING AND THE HOUSING PROBLEM,** by Carol Aronovici. Publishers, A. C. McClurg and Co., Chicago. Price 75 cents.

This book is based upon the results of housing investigations in more than two score cities and the experience in teaching classes in housing at the University of Minnesota. The book emphasizes, not so much the sanitary aspect of housing as the development of a program of housing reform that would fit in with the present housing shortage and the reconstruction period which must follow the war.

This is one of the National Social Science Series published from time to time by A. C. McClurg and Co. The books are written by experts and while it is not claimed that they solve problems in our intricate social order and explain in simple terms the most thorough conclusions that have as yet been arrived at concerning them. A good idea of the spirit of the book may be gained from the concluding paragraphs.

Individualism and the laissez-faire doctrine are coming to be recognized as both anti-individual and anti-social when we count up the wastefulness, and countenance the hideousness, that these methods have produced in the building of our cities.

Lord Macaulay once wrote to a friend in the United States that "The Goths and Vandals of Rome came from without, but yours will come from within." When one views the architectural work of the last generation one cannot fail to be impressed with the truth of this prophetic statement.

The author says: "In viewing the various methods of approach are expressed by our prophetic engineers and builders of Utopias the differences of point of view strengthen the belief that no man will be the true prophet or the builder of the city of the future, but that it will be the syn-

thetic creation of all the civilizing influences at work upon all the people in shaping their individual and social destiny.

We must visualize the city of the future, not in terms of great structure with platforms and storage places for aeroplanes, and underground garages for automobiles and trains, but as a decentralized community which extends the blessings of productive industry, safe living, and the highest type of culture into the remotest parts of the country. I am thinking of the city of tomorrow, not as a conglomerate administrative unit, but as a great social institution in which the human values will stand out as the paramount achievement, and in which industry and commerce and politics and war and nationalism will become merely means and not ends in which the highest type of co-operative individualism, with the home as the fundamental unit, will develop.

The test of the city of the future will be its adequacy in providing for the life, labor, and leisure of its people and the housing reformer will have to join hands with the city planner to achieve this great end."

What is believed to be the most favorable western crop report ever issued by the Department of Agriculture was given out last week. It comprises reports from 57 points representative of the whole provinces of Manitoba and every locality testifies to the healthy state of the crops and the abundance of moisture.

Investigation of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation project by two New York financial houses of high standing is being undertaken with a view to the purchase of the bonds of the irrigation district.

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