

LITERATURE.

MUNICIPAL REFORM MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. *By W. H. Tolman, Ph. D. F. H. Revell, Toronto.*

This is a decidedly practical book, written by a thoroughly practical man, on one of the most pressing problems of our day. Its subtitle, "The Text Book of the New Reformation," is expressive of its objects. No one working for the civil, social or moral betterment of his fellows should fail to study it with care.

In every city and town of the land the need of civic reform is urgent, but how best to effect it is the puzzling question. Here is the first meritorious attempt to answer this question, not only of *what* to do but *how* to do it.

Dr. Tolman is Secretary of the New York City Vigilance League and as organizer for the overthrow of Tammany has come to the conclusion that civic ignorance is largely responsible for civic misrule, but sound education on the duties and privileges of citizenship will reduce it to a minimum, and as an aid to the much needed education has written this Text-book.

The Introductory chapter by Dr. Parkhurst is a rousing trumpet call, full of the impulse of the Tammany conflict. This is followed by a very valuable chapter on the civic Renaissance originated by Dr. Parkhurst and working so vigorously.

In successive chapters the leading Municipal Reform Movements, Movements for Civic Betterment, and Woman's Organizations in connection with the new Reformation, to the number of seventy-eight, are described. Their origin, history, constitutions, officers, methods of work and results achieved in each case, are given with precision.

This exhibition of what is being actually done in the leading cities and towns of the United States, affords abundant information, from which a method of work can be gleaned suited to any local need.

The closing chapter furnishes a more detailed account of the New York City Vigilance League. Its origin, objects, administrative policy and working methods are stated and afford an object lesson on civic and social reform. As such, it is of exceptional value, showing how an organization two years old could overthrow the long dreaded Tammany ring entrenched behind eighty years of corruption and crime.

It shows, too, what can be effected by a fixed moral purpose in the heart of a single man of unflinching courage and inspiring enthusiasm, in cleansing the civic life of a community, and by so doing will have a tendency to focus its moral forces on the work of social reform.