

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL STUDY.

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So deep and general is the interest excited by the social problem, that many are anxious to make it a subject of especial inquiry. A request has been made for such a course of reading and study as will promote this end. In complying with this request, a series of articles will be given under the above heading aiming to direct attention to helpful literature and its most profitable use, and also to the independent study of society and to social research.

It is our purpose to make this course systematic, leading from one subject to another, until the whole theme, with its relation to allied disciplines, is included. Some may not be able to take the entire course; but even if they can read only a few books, and enter on some of the investigation, they will find themselves amply rewarded.

The general subject of sociology must be studied in order to comprehend the social problem. We must get a knowledge of society itself, if we want to know the meaning of the questions which agitate it. Our study therefore will include an inquiry into the philosophy or science of society, and of social themes in general, but all for the purpose of interpreting the social problem and finding the conditions for its solution. The proposed course of reading and study will consequently take a wide range; but with a definite end in view, and with specific directions how to use the literature, it is hoped that confusion will be avoided and positive results attained.

What shall the first lesson in the School be? It ought to consist of clear definitions and explanations, giving an idea of the exact meaning of the subject, of its importance, of the reasons for its investigation, and of the method of its study. Light at the beginning will illuminate the whole course. For a year the social problem has been

made a specialty in this REVIEW, and many of its phases have been discussed. The subject is so extensive, and involves so many themes, that no work extant treats it exhaustively.

As general in character, and as adapted to an introduction, we recommend the following: the article on "Socialism," in the "Encyclopedia Britannica;" "Socialism of To-day," by Laveleye; "Contemporary Socialism," by Rae; "Socialism and Social Reform," by Ely. A volume on "The Social Problem," by W. Graham, published by Kegan Paul, London, discusses the subject mainly from the economic standpoint. "The Social Problem," by F. A. Lange (Sonnenschein, London) gives the German view, its writer being the author of the scholarly "History of Materialism." "Socialism, the Fabian Essays," London, also C. E. Brown & Co., Boston. "Socialism, New and Old," by W. Graham. A very valuable list of books on socialism, the social problem, and allied subjects, is published by the Fabian Society, Strand, London, in "What to Read," price six cents. A bibliography is also given at the close of Professor Ely's book. Another volume by this author is entitled "Problems of To-day."

In order to make this preliminary course of reading most profitable, the student should settle two questions: What is the relation of the Labor Problem to the Social Problem? and what is the relation of the Social Problem to Socialism? So often are these subjects confounded that their exact relation should be determined.

The labor problem involves the labor agitations of the day, such as capitalism and the wage system, the condition of laborers, their pay, their treatment, their education and life, and how their situation can be improved. This vast and important