

## New Books

### The Social Evil

With special reference to conditions existing in the  
City of New York

A Report prepared (in 1902) under the direction of the  
Committee of Fifteen

As the author says in the Preface, this subject, painful as it is, is now recognized as a social and ethical problem, a problem which needs the most careful study from every class interested in humanity, and not merely from doctors and criminologists.

The Committee whose work was summarized in the original edition, was formed at a public meeting of citizens, in New York to enquire into the question, went into the matter very thoroughly, as the report proves; and to this has been added new matter showing what has been done—and left undone—in the decade from 1902 to 1912.

The original Report is reported in Part I and II, while Part III brings the subject up to date, and shows changes in the situation both abroad in the States.

Both the report and the sequel contains a vast amount of information upon this all too important a subject. The experiences of cities which have tried the experiments of the regulation and segregation, are given, and the consensus of opinion among students of all classes, physicians, judges and citizens, is seen to be that neither regulation nor segregation are successful in even doing what they are claimed to do. The statement of Police Commissioner O'Meara, of Boston, puts the situation tersely. "Restraint by license is a surrender to vice under the authority of the Law; restraint by segregation is a compromise with vice, illegally made, and a nullification of laws by public officers appointed to enforce them." The same experts says that the chief trouble of this whole question is "the indifference of the public."

One of the most important points shown is that segregation is useless, as well as illegal.

The concluding paragraph shows the summing up of the situation:

"It is the public indifference that is really at the root of the problem. The secret of all the effects that have been recounted in the preceding pages is to overcome and to break down this public indifference. With publicity, with awakening interest, and with the determination to what it at once right and practicable, the first steps in the solution of this problem will have been taken. At no time in the history of the world has the outlook for such progress been so engled at it is at present."

An encouraging part of the book is the summary by Dr. Seligman of the developments since the Report was first issued; the growing feeling that regulation is unsatisfactory; the portentous growth of the white slave traffic, (though this may be partially the greater knowledge of it, rather than an increase in it); the international legislation to suppress it; the continuance of the Committee's work in New York; and the awakening of public interest in the States is the whole question.

That there is plenty of work for the Committee in

New York is self-evident, and unfortunately, other cities are guilty also.

A full bibliography as well as a good index add to the value of the book from the student's point of view.

### Nothing Gained by Overcrowding

Raymond Unwin, F.R.I.B.A.

(Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 24 pp  
Illus. 3d.)

"The Garden City movement, as the name implies, stands for a more harmonious combination of city and country dwelling house and garden." Thus Mr. Unwin commences the little book in which he proves, by pen and pencil, the truth of the assertion which forms its title. He admits that it is practically impossible to transform an old established city into a garden city, but shows how the latter can be formed in the suburbs of the former, so as to do away with the objectionable features of slum life which is sure to overtake any growing city which does not plan to prevent it.

Plans and letter press show how an area of ground can be handled in such a way as to give the residents plenty of air and sunshine at very little more cost per house than when the legal limit per acre is built on, the lessened cost of roads, sidewalks and underground work lessening the outlay, as well as the upkeep, considerably. The diagrams and plans add greatly to the value of the arguments, while the illustrations in garden cities alongside the deadly uniformity of "the By-Law method" makes one wonder how long it will be before the public conscience is roused sufficiently to appreciate the crimes—producing character of environment and the need of decent surroundings to produce good citizens.

### 200 Municipal Ownership Failures

GLENN MARSTON

(Public Service Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill., 29 p., 25 c.)

This catalogue of tragedies has been compiled from the record printed monthly in "Public Service", whose aim is to show that the only practical method of managing public utilities is by private enterprise. Naturally, no failures in corporation management, either in a monetary sense, or as satisfying the public demands, are recorded.

It is very satisfactory to note that although the list includes Canada, that there are only 2 cases in the Dominion, and even one of these is not Municipal, but Provincial Government, this being the case of the Manitoba telephone system; so that the only case of municipal ownership failure in Canada is that of Napanee, Ont., and this is summed as the sale by the municipality of its electric light plant to a private company, which "gives continuous service, instead of night service only; has reduced are lamps by \$5; tungsten street lamps by \$5; and the residence rate by 2c. per K. W. H." Really, although there is a reduction in prices, the statement does not show that there was a "municipal failure."

The other case, that of the Manitoba Telephone system, is generally known to be the result of purchasing at an exorbitant price, and retaining men who purchased their supplies, irrespective of price, from a concern interested in proving public ownership to be a failure. If there were any judgment in the valuation of the plant, or the price it would have been very different, and the results successful.