

Perhaps no other book brought out within the last few months has given rise to more discussion in American political circles than *The Mirrors of Washington* (pp. 256) published anonymously by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons. The author has singled out fourteen American public men and has analyzed the personality of each in a most unconventional and daring manner which in many instances is caustic and in some few almost bitter. Among the men who are "mirrored" are such well-known personages as President Harding, Ex-president Wilson, Secretary of State Hughes, Herbert Hoover, Ex-senator Root and Senators Lodge, Hiram Johnson, Knox, Penrose and Borah, all of whom have had their eye on the presidency or have attained that honor. The general method of attack has been to work out for each of the satiric portrayals a sentence or brief epigram which will sum up what the author regards as the frailties of the individual under consideration. In some cases the choice has been fortunate; in others a somewhat distorted characterization has been given in striving to bring out the sensational. Altogether it is an exceedingly clever piece of work, evidently written by an experienced journalist, and does present some degree of pungent truth in regard to the figures with which it deals, although it can hardly be said to be as well balanced and as true to life as *The Mirrors of Downing Street* of which it is an obvious imitation.

The progress of English democracy during the past third of a century is vividly described by Homer Lawrence Morris in a monograph on *Parliamentary Franchise Reform in England from 1885 to 1918* published as one of the latest of the Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law (Longmans, Green and Company, pp. 208). Chief consideration is given to the movements for the abolition of plural voting and the extension of parliamentary franchise to women. Over a third of the study is devoted to the Representation of the People Act of 1918 which removed a host of previously existing irregularities, provided a redistribution of seats for England, swept away a complicated maze of obstructive laws, granted suffrage to women and increased the register of parliamentary voters to almost half of the total population.

Ferdinand Schevill of Chicago University has revised his text-book, *A Political History of Modern Europe* (Harcourt, Brace and Company, pp. xiv, 663) which was originally published in 1907. Three new chapters have been added covering the character of European civilization at the beginning of the twentieth century, European diplomatic relations

from 1871 to 1914, and the facts concerning the war and the peace. Like the older portions of the work these new chapters are written in a clear and lucid manner and are easily assimilated. An interesting feature of the material from the standpoint of the student of political science is the special attention given to political developments. It is regretted, however, that the author has not revised the general bibliography at the end of the volume as there have been at least a few books of importance to the subject which have appeared since 1907.

A very useful volume on *Europe Since 1870* by Professor E. R. Turner of the University of Michigan has been issued by Messrs. Doubleday, Page and Company (pp. 580). This book is based on the second part of the author's *Europe 1789-1920*, but considerable additions have been made because of the opportunity for more detail and some portions are entirely new. The student of political science is impressed particularly by the emphasis upon governmental organization and developments in the different European countries, by the author's impartial attitude toward controversial matters, and by his readable style. As in the case of the earlier work on *Europe 1789-1920* the bibliographies at the end of each chapter are most helpful and there are a number of excellent maps.

*The Law of the Sea*, by George L. Canfield and George W. Dalzell, admiralty lawyers, has been published by D. Appleton and Company. This is the third volume of the series of manuals on training for the merchant marine projected jointly by the United States Shipping Board and the Federal Board for Vocational Education. The book presents the chief facts and principles in regard to the legal relations, rights, duties and obligations of ship owners, operators and seamen and the legal problems connected with the ownership of a vessel from the contract for its construction to sale and salvage. A summary of the navigation laws of the United States, the text of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, and a table of cases cited in the text greatly enhance the usefulness of the book. This treatise should prove very helpful to owners or masters of vessels as well as to the student who may wish to acquire information concerning the main facts and principles of maritime law without attempting to acquire such a mastery of the subject as is possessed by an admiralty lawyer.

An English edition of *Le Déclin de l'Europe* by A. Demangeon, Professor of Geography at the Sorbonne, has been brought out by Messrs.