

In May, 1919, the French Chamber of Deputies voted full equality of political rights to women, but the Senate has not approved the action. The practical effects of woman suffrage in the countries where it does function are made the prime object of the study in order that the experience may be utilized for France. This experience is set forth in great detail and with a really amazing familiarity with a wide range of literature. Especial attention is given to England as the first great sovereign state to realize political equality of the sexes. The interesting account of the history in the United States is not carried to the point of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment.

It is noted that no Latin or Catholic countries have joined the equal suffrage ranks, that the first experiments were all in weak countries and later in great states, and that they have everywhere been made as the result of long-continued efforts of the women themselves. In the actual exercise of the franchise, women are found to use the right to vote, but to remain relatively inactive in the preliminaries; they have not tended to form separate party organizations. The experience of the American states is cited to show improvement in women's economic status with the vote, in the opening of new and better employments. With woman suffrage has come a mass of needed social legislation: the protection of mothers, children, and women workers, and laws for the control of prostitution, drugs and drink. Concluding, the author declares unconditionally for parliamentary eligibility of women and for equal suffrage.

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*The Pageant of Parliament.* By MICHAEL MACDONAGH. (N. Y.: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1921, 2 vols. Pp. 252, 241.)

Many books have been written about the organization and powers of Parliament, but we have had very few portrayals of the "Grand Inquest" at work. Mr. MacDonagh's volumes are well-named, for they present a lively and comprehensive picture of Parliament as a going concern, in all its moods and actions, and with all its striking pageantry. They deal with many topics which never find place in the standard treatises on English government—with the humors and tragedies of debate, the oddities of procedure, and with the tribulations of the average M. P. The pages are well-stocked with anecdotes; the great parliamentary figures of the past generation flit in and out before

the reader's eyes. It is all very interesting and makes a strong appeal to anyone with a liking for the picturesque. No writer has ever more vividly shown us what a remarkable body this Mother of Parliaments is—its combination of quaint mediaevalism with aggressive modernity.

For thirty-five years the author has sat in the press gallery at Westminster and not much has been allowed to escape his eye. But his volumes contain a good deal more than the fruits of casual observation. Mr. MacDonagh has been a careful student of parliamentary history and traditions, of constitutional usages and legislative practice. He has mastered all that one finds in the treatises, and more. This has enabled him to measure the significance of the things that he now writes about. Those whose reading has brought them into contact with the author's earlier books need only be assured that the style of these later volumes is equally interesting and the contents even more so. Here is a spirited chronicle of Parliament, in its contrasts of solemnity and gaiety, its ceremonies and customs, its achievements of oratory and statesmanship, and all the rest. Avoiding the usual paths, Mr. MacDonagh has betaken himself to the byways in search of fresh and apt anecdotes to brighten up his descriptions, and his quest has been notably successful. The American teacher who desires to liven his lectures on English government with sprinkling of human touches will find *The Pageant of Parliament* a godsend.

W. B. M.

*Geschichte des Neueren Schweizerischen Staatsrechts.* Bd. I, *Die Zeit der Helvetik und der Vermittlungsakte, 1798–1813.* Von DR. EDUARD HIS. (Basel. Helbing & Lichtenhahn. Pp. xix, 691.)

The interesting and formative period in Swiss history from 1798 to 1813 has been covered already by many writers who have dealt with the subject from the various viewpoints of the political, military, and general historian. Until the appearance of the present volume, however, no one has attempted to give a systematic and connected account of the history of Swiss public law as a whole during the period of the Helvetic and Mediation Acts. There can be no doubt that this careful and exhaustive work by Dr. Eduard His will at once take rank as of the highest authority. Following a general survey of the constitutional development of the period, he analyzes in the most admirable