

regretted that the author was content with this, rather than in giving us a more careful analysis of Adams' relation to the factors opposing the ratification movement in Massachusetts.

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#### BRIEFER NOTICES

Teachers of general courses in American government, national and state, as well as the hosts of students who have been "brought up," so to speak, on Charles A. Beard's *American Government and Politics* (Fourth edition, The Macmillan Company, pp. x, 820) will welcome warmly a completely revised edition of that valuable and useful book. The book has been almost entirely rewritten, and in some parts wholly recast. As a concession to those teachers who believe that a theoretical foundation in the general principles of political science offers a more desirable approach to American government, Professor Beard has prepared a general introduction in three chapters. It is, however, not a mere summary of abstract political theory, but has particular reference to many of the underlying problems of our own government and prepares the student for the more detailed presentation of the subject which follows.

The first chapter emphasizes the aspect of the government as the one great social institution seeking to serve all, and in so doing moving slowly or rapidly in response to the varying demands of the body of citizens. Chapter II deals in a particularly satisfying way with the general aspects of the political party, the complex forces out of which it grows, is sustained, and perpetuated. Chapter III deals with the modern science of administration and the problems connected therewith. The historical material in the earlier editions has been entirely rearranged. Those portions dealing with the colonial origins and historical development of the state and local governmental institutions have been transferred to Part III where they more logically belong. Those portions dealing with the development of the Union and the national government have been condensed into one chapter. One notes in passing that in tracing the steps in the formation of the Union the author still omits mention of the Committees of Correspondence. One may also feel inclined to doubt that the chapter on the national administration should have been transferred to its present position after the Judiciary.

The last chapter of Part II, dealing with the general subject of federal subsidies and the steady encroachment of the national government upon the reserved powers of the states, is new. It seems to the reviewer to clearly belong to Part III, dealing with state government. This would have become still more evident, had the author at this point developed the theory of the place of the state in our system of government. On some such background the tendencies outlined in the chapter referred to might have come to appear alarming. As it is, little attention is paid to this important characteristic of our system of government—one which many believe it is necessary to maintain. Except as indicated, no fundamental changes have been made. Much new material has been brought in, however. Most of the chapters have been more or less rewritten and all have been brought up to date.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Hans Delbrück's lectures, *Government and the Will of the People* (Oxford University Press, pp. xiii, 192), translated by Roy S. MacElwee, were delivered at Berlin University in 1913. In an epilogue written in 1920 Professor Delbrück attempts to reconcile his former praise of the German "constitutional government" with the facts of the post-war Reich. His criticisms of democratic parliamentary government are still as strong as ever; he finds in the powers of the President, the referendum, and the Economic Council some checks to its complete expression in the constitution. His lectures contain much able analysis of the parliamentary system as it functions in different countries. He quotes with restrained approval the strictures of Faguet and Belloc, and discusses incisively and with a wealth of illustration the majority system (5 ff.), proportional representation (15 ff.), the "oligarchy" of party organization (56 ff.), etc. But despite valuable and often brilliant discussion of the party system in particular, he becomes quite uncritical in his advocacy of the German pre-war government. The absence of an index reduces the usefulness of the volume, and while the translation is in the main well done, it is marred by occasional pedantic phrases.

Volume one of *An Ambassador's Memoirs*, by Maurice Paleologue, last French Ambassador to the Russian Court (George H. Doran Company, pp. 350) covers by means of a day-to-day account, the period from July 20, 1914, to June 2, 1915, in a vivid and sympathetic

<sup>1</sup> By N. H. Debel, Goucher College.