

*Colonial Civil Service.* By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. With an account of the East India College at Haileybury (1806-1857), by H. Morse Stephens. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1900. — xiv, 346 pp.

This work is devoted to a description of the methods adopted in Great Britain, Holland and France for the selection and training of the officials in the colonial civil service. The book is useful, both as a compendium of information and as containing suggestions regarding the future policy of the United States in this direction.

So far as the first is concerned, Mr. Lowell points out, not merely how far the various systems differ at the present time, but also how far modifications have been made in each system, in order to adopt the improvements which experience has shown to be necessary or advisable. The tendency indicated by the laws and regulations of all the countries concerned seems to be towards (1) a competitive examination on general subjects, the study of which will not have resulted in wasting the time of the student, in case he is unsuccessful; to be followed by (2) a course of special study upon subjects directly relating to a colonial official career. The result of such a system — which, however, has perhaps not been established in all its details in any of the countries — is to ensure to each person who has successfully passed the competitive examination a place in the colonial service. The system also confines all appointments for the colonial service to persons who have had an education that is practically the equivalent of a college education in the United States, since only those persons who have had such an education can be expected to pass successfully the competitive examinations necessary for entrance into the service.

Mr. Lowell does not think that such a system is applicable in the United States, under the present condition of public opinion as to office-holding, and suggests as an alternative the establishment of a colonial school, somewhat like the present military and naval academies. Recognizing, however, that the demands of our colonial service would not, probably for many years to come, be sufficient to justify the establishment of such a school, if it were to be devoted solely to the education of colonial officials, he makes the very sensible suggestion of using it as well for the education of consular officers, particularly those stationed in Asiatic countries. Mr. Lowell believes that such a school would meet with little objection on the part of the people generally, if appointments to it were made in the same manner in which appointments to Annapolis and West Point are now made.

Believing, as he does, that a colonial college is what we need in the United States for the training of our future colonial officials, Mr. Lowell has prevailed upon Prof. Morse Stephens to write an account of Haileybury College, which was put to similar use by the old East India Company for the first half of this century. This account follows the main body of the work, and a perusal of it cannot fail to impress the reader with the belief that Mr. Lowell has been peculiarly fortunate in securing the coöperation of Prof. Stephens. The reader is certainly convinced that no better argument in favor of Mr. Lowell's thesis could have been adduced than the records of old Haileybury, as thus charmingly set forth.

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*Municipal Government, as illustrated by the Charter, Finances and Public Charities of New York.* By BIRD S. COLER, Comptroller of the City. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1900. — viii, 200 pp.

This little book contains the gist of several magazine articles, addresses and reports by Mr. Coler. It deals with some of the specific municipal problems that have presented themselves in New York City during the two years since the extension of the city boundaries and the charter of 1897 went into effect. Two chapters on "Public Charities" describe the former and the new methods of municipal grants to private charities; and one on "Water Supply" is a brief in opposition to the proposed contract to secure water from a private company. On both subjects Mr. Coler's attitude as an official has been productive of striking practical results. The remaining chapters are descriptive and critical, making suggestions as to charter changes, as to lines of municipal development and as to the improvement of municipal politics.

The Comptroller finds that under the present charter the borough presidents and the board of public improvements are useless offices, and the municipal assembly is worse than useless. He favors for all the municipal departments single heads, made clearly responsible to the mayor by giving that official the power to remove them at any time during his term. He would centralize the entire auditing and accounting work in the comptroller's office. He would increase the powers of the board of estimate, and would make another member elective, so that the board would not be controlled by the mayor and his appointees, as at present. The adoption of this last suggestion, with the abolition of the municipal assembly, would practically