

BOOK NOTES.

Early Political Machinery in the United States, by George D. Luet-scher (Philadelphia, 1903), stands well above the average of doctors' dissertations. It is a careful study of practical political methods in the earliest days of our party organizations, and its purpose is to disclose the beginnings of the convention system in nominating candidates. Whether the author is entirely successful in establishing the thesis which he proposes, may be doubted by some. There is no doubt, however, that the pamphlet contains a large amount of very useful and suggestive information concerning a subject just now attracting much attention — the history of our party machinery.

In a third volume entitled *Select Statutes illustrative of the History of the United States, 1861-1898*, Professor McDonald completes the useful series which he has been publishing in the course of the last few years as an aid to the study of American history. This final volume shows, in the choice of documents and in the editorial notes, the same high standard of excellence which was exhibited in the preceding volumes. The necessity of compression has excluded many statutes which seem at the present time to be of very great importance. Nothing can be said, however, against the importance of those that are actually presented, and therefore the reader must be satisfied. With McPherson's *History of the Reconstruction* held at \$15 per volume by the second-hand dealers, Professor McDonald's presentation of leading documents in connection with reconstruction times certainly satisfies a much felt want.

An important *Bibliography of the Philippine Islands* (Part I, 398 pp.; Part II, 439 pp.) has appeared as Senate Document No. 74 of the Fifty-seventh Congress, Second Session. Part I, compiled under the direction of P. Lee Phillips, contains a list of books, official documents, maps, etc., all of which are in the library of Congress. The topical and chronological arrangement, with full subject, author and geographical indices, render the compilation convenient for use. Part II, written in Spanish, is entitled *A Philippine Catalogue*, and is the work of Dr. T. H. Pardo de Tavera, a native member of the Philippine Commission. The general introduction to the work states that this part "aims to be a complete bibliography," but as the author himself admits (p. 8) the list is not exhaustive. Dr. Pardo's annotations generally afford "an idea of what the book says," and in this respect are

decidedly superior to the few bibliographical notices of a clerical stamp scattered through Part I. In his list of the libraries that possess many works on the Philippines Señor Pardo fails to mention that belonging to the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas at Barcelona, to which most of the Retana collection has been added. The value of the work would have been enhanced by substituting a genuine historical sketch of the Philippine Islands for the fragmentary information conveyed in the Introduction; by translating into English the bibliographical notices in Part I; by translating Part II entire, and appending to it a subject index.

Mr. Belfort Bax has completed his series of studies on the social side of the German Reformation in a volume entitled *The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptists* (Swan Sonnenschein, 406 pp.). In his first volume on *German Society at the Close of the Middle Ages*, Mr. Bax gave a lucid account of the economic changes due to the rise of capitalism at the commencement of the sixteenth century, and pointed out its relation to the break-up of the manorial system, the evolution of the money economy, the decay of the guilds, the growth of the merchant princes, and the development of free competition. In a second volume on the Peasant Wars, he showed how these facts inevitably led to the outbreak of the insurrections in 1525. In the present volume on the Anabaptists, he makes it clear how the same causes resulted a few years later in that economico-religious movement which culminated in the Reformation at Münster. He studies in some detail the communistic ideals of Münzer, Jan of Leyden, and Jan Matthys, and he points out how the social reforms proposed were based on the notion of a return to the economic conditions of the old village community. An original contribution to the subject is found in the chapter on the Anabaptist movement in England. It is quite possible to appreciate the value of Mr. Bax's historical studies and yet to deplore the somewhat irrelevant passages in which he tries to make propaganda for the modern socialist movement.

Dr. Theodor Sommerlad has followed up his investigations on the economic activity of the early church by a monograph on the economic theories of the church, under the title, *Das Wirtschaftsprogram der Kirche des Mittelalters* (Leipzig, Weber, 223 pp.). His description of the economic and social views of the New Testament covers a field that has been well worked of late, but his succeeding chapters on the economic life of the third century in Africa and Egypt, on the theoretical reaction against the economic life of the fourth century, and finally on the counter-reaction and the systematization of the new ideas