

## BOOK NOTES

In the brief essays, originally published in the London *Nation*, which Mr. J. A. Hobson has collected under the title: *A Modern Outlook: Studies of English and American Tendencies* (Boston, Dana Estes and Company, n. d. ; viii, 318 pp.), there is insight and philosophy; there is effective if somewhat heavy-handed writing; there is also, not infrequently, a display of prejudice, naked and not ashamed, that further reminds one of that Briton of Britons, Dr. Samuel Johnson. Certain institutions, policies and persons arouse in Mr. Hobson a wrath that may be righteous but that limits his mental activity to a search for verbal missiles. Among the persons he can not tolerate is Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, at whom he hurls again his memorable paper on "The Boom-Child" (pages 208-215) and to whom he pays similar but briefer attention in other places (*cf.* pages 91, 92, 268, 269). Of policies, imperialism is that which he most detests; and while but one essay in this volume, "The Game of Efficiency" (pages 278-284), is wholly anti-imperialist, passages of the same trend may be found elsewhere. One of these is worth quoting. "The hopeless crudity of western modes of government in handling what we term eastern fanaticism is dramatized for us in a terse telegraphic message which some years ago appeared in the columns of the London press: 'A new saint has appeared in the Swat Valley; the police are after him'" (page 274). Mr. Hobson's outlook is not always as modern as his title promises; it is moderately so, however, in the batch of essays on "The Woman of the Future" (pages 109-142), and highly so in the concluding essay on the case of Ferrer, who is presented as a "martyr for education" and whose execution is characterized as "an incomparably worse crime" than bomb-throwing (pages 317, 318). Mr. Hobson is at his best—which is very good—when he is not too modern: witness his papers on Thomas Paine (pages 90-97) and on Oliver Wendell Holmes (pages 155-162).

In his *Sociology Applied to Practical Politics* (New York, Longmans, Green and Company, 1911; xi, 320 pp.) John Beattie Crozier has embodied certain essays which have appeared during the past few years in English reviews. The book falls into three divisions, each with a unity of its own running through the chapters: "A Challenge to Socialism," which pillories Marx and tells the Fabians that they are not Socialists

at all; "Sociology and Politics," which includes an assault upon the strangely overrated work of Benjamin Kidd and an ironical criticism of Wells's *Modern Utopia*; and "Sociology and Political Economy," which presents as convincing an appeal for protection in England as has been offered anywhere since the issue was first raised by Joseph Chamberlain. In his lively and trenchant manner Mr. Crozier throws ridicule upon Marshall and his "academic and apostolic associates"; but though, in view of the present condition of English industry, he would "carry out most of the protectionist principles with a rigor unknown outside Japan," he concedes that free trade was best for the country during the period when her commercial and manufacturing supremacy went almost undisputed. He believes that free trade is largely responsible for "this relative backwardness of England in emerging from a more primitive stage in the organization of industry, namely, that of free competing industries, with their waste, friction, and expense, into the higher constructive stage of combination, with its immense economic advantages and its saving of waste and cost." He makes some sagacious comments on the relation between the trusts and the banks in the United States.

*Our Electoral System: The Demand for Reform*, by Mr. Joseph King, M. P., and Mr. F. W. Raffety (London, Thomas Murray and Company, 1912; viii, 149 pp.), is an exposition of the existing British electoral system in all its aspects and of the lines on which it is urged that the next reform bill should be framed, if, as is now confidently expected, the matter is to be taken up by the present Liberal government. The changes effected by the reform acts of 1832, 1867 and 1884 are briefly but carefully and accurately described. So are the anomalies—plural voting and the university franchise—which have survived all the reform acts of the nineteenth century. There are also chapters describing the exceedingly costly and undemocratic system of registration of voters, and explaining with all necessary statistical detail the urgent need of a new and more democratic distribution of seats.

Two new volumes have been added to the "National Municipal League Series." *The Initiative, Referendum and Recall* (New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1912; viii, 365 pp.) includes fourteen articles of varying merit written within the past six years. Colonel Roosevelt and Governor Wilson are among the contributors; and the opposing points of view are felicitously stated in the essays which Congressman McCall and Senator Bourne recently contributed to the *Atlantic Monthly*. Professor W. B. Munro, who, as editor of the volume, discusses different phases of the subject in the opening chapter, believes that "most of the existing political ailments can be eradicated