

## BOOK NOTES

In view of the political changes which have been going forward in the past decade Mr. Sidney Low has brought out a revised edition of *The Governance of England* (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1913; xl, 320 pp.). No important modifications have been made in the body of the text; as long as the future of the House of Lords and of Irish government remains unsettled it would be a thankless task to undertake a thorough-going revision. But Mr. Low, not wishing to have his book regarded as a mere "paper description," has provided in the introduction a suggestive analysis of existing tendencies. His conclusions with regard to the effects of the Parliament Act are especially deserving of attention. The power of the cabinet will be augmented, he tells us, not only by the restrictions placed upon the veto of the Lords, but indirectly also by the shortening of the parliamentary mandate. Circumstances no longer favor dissolutions at irregular intervals. "In the first and second years they will be avoided because the House of Commons is too near its cradle, in the third and fourth years because it is already drawing towards its grave"; and since three sessions are required to carry a measure which is opposed by the Lords, dissolution will be avoided while such measures are awaiting final passage. It follows that the cabinet will become more self-confident, less responsive to public opinion; for, as in France or the United States, appeal will be taken to the constituencies at fixed intervals. That Mr. Low has no enthusiasm for the proposal to create an elective upper house is natural enough. It would be either too strong to permit of the proper functioning of cabinet responsibility or too weak to attract men of experience and capacity. He asks whether the House of Lords, limited by the Parliament Act, but "still retaining much of its historic tradition and its association with the territorial and industrial aristocracy, might not be in reality more influential than a new-minted and miscellaneous assembly, with larger nominal powers, but with no roots in the past, and no definite relation towards any great permanent element in our social organism." He speaks of another alternative, single-chamber government, evidently with approval, but believes that such a system should be accompanied by the referendum "or some other machinery for ascertaining the popular will when ministers were unwilling to submit to a general election." Equally instructive are the comments upon the position of

the prime minister. Through his connection with the Imperial Conference and the Committee of Imperial Defence he is assuming duties to which the principle of collective ministerial responsibility cannot conveniently be applied. Mr. Low believes that "we may expect a more definite recognition of the prime minister's status as imperial chancellor and perhaps eventually the separation of that function from the presidency of the British ministry and the leadership of the British parliamentary majority."

*Le Gouvernement Représentatif Fédéral dans la République Argentine* (Paris, Librairie Hachette et Cie., 1912; 380 pp.) by José Nicolás Matienzo, Professor in Public Law in the Universities of Buenos Ayres and La Plata, is a volume written to comply with the recommendation, embodied in a resolution of the Pan-American Scientific Congress held at Santiago de Chile in 1908, that the universities of the American republics make studies of the political institutions of their countries. This work, in a comparatively brief compass, presents a clear description of the workings of the Argentine government. The federal system as applied in Argentina is described, as well as the party organization and the theory of the constitution. Chapters are devoted to the executive, legislative and judicial departments, to the provincial administration, and to the relations between the central government and the provinces. The appendices contain the text of the constitution of 1853 and its amendments, which are now in force.

Professor J. A. Woodburn's *Political Parties and Party Problems in the United States*, which first appeared in 1903, has been reissued in a revised and enlarged form (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914; xiii, 487 pp.). The new volume is half again as large as its predecessor, the increased size being due to the inclusion of new chapters on the recent history of parties and on direct legislation as well as to the fuller consideration given to primary reform and the origins of the Republican party. The curious and somewhat confusing arrangement of the subject-matter remains as it was; the convention appears in part ii as a piece of political machinery and the primary in part iii as an "ethical problem." The bibliographies leave much to be desired. For example, references are made to Dallinger, Harvard Historical Publications (no title, no date); to Peck's *Twenty-five Years of the Republic*; to the *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science* (no date). At least three different titles are given to the *Cyclopedia of American Government*. In numerous cases where the value of a book depends upon the time of its publication no date is given. The author has been to some pains in bringing his information abreast of recent changes; in that he