

riage rate and the birth rate in certain groups, and the causes of friction within the family. This is followed by a chapter on current theories of reform. Dr. Goodsell's book will prove serviceable for instruction purposes. In addition, it works out a well-balanced and comprehensive theory that gives practical guidance in one of the puzzling social problems of the day.

Literary sources have been little used as a basis for the study of the legal and political conditions of the past. Chilton Latham Powell in *English Domestic Relations: 1487-1653* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1917; xii, 274 pp.) has made an interesting and valuable study of the literature of marriage and domestic life during the period he has selected. His investigations have also extended to the more usual historical sources. He shows that the discrimination against women embodied in the English divorce law did not belong either to the early days when the Church controlled marriage, nor yet to the years between 1487 and 1653. It was between the years 1660 and 1857, when marriages were dissolved by act of Parliament, that the custom grew up of granting to the husband divorce on the ground of adultery alone—a right denied to the wife, who had to prove cruelty or desertion in addition to adultery. Between 1715 and 1850 250 acts dissolving marriage had been passed, 246 at the petition of the husband and four at the petition of the wife. Dr. Powell shows the degradation of women resulting from the ecclesiastic attitude toward the female sex, and the continual attempt to enforce obedience and subservience on the wife as her proper conduct. It is possible that he makes too much of the jokes that were current to the discredit of women. Nevertheless the book is extremely illuminating, and it indicates the possibility of using literary sources in a way hitherto little employed.

Mr. B. G. Bannington's *English Public Health Administration* (London, P. S. King and Son, Limited, 1915; xiv, 338 pp.) indicates on nearly every page that it is written from the inside. It is much more than a history of the health code and a description of the elaborate machinery of the health committees and of the duties of their permanent staffs. It shows all this machinery at work; it shows where it runs smoothly, where it creaks and why it creaks. It is one of the most serviceable additions of the last ten years to the literature of English municipal institutions—a book of peculiar value to the student of English municipal life, practical, candid and illuminating. It reveals the great extent to which women of good education are making careers in the numerous and comprehensive activities of public-health commit-

tees. For much of the newer work imposed on health committees by Parliament, women are eminently suitable, and for part of it their service is imperative. Women are now making good the judgment of such municipal councils as those of Nottingham and Islington, which, realizing that the city is merely the larger home, were the first to draft women into the public-health department of municipal work.

The veteran Australian free-trader, Mr. Edward Pulsford, has gathered together in *Commerce and the Empire* (London, P. S. King and Sons, Limited, 1917; x, 248 pp.) a considerable number of more or less unrelated writings on the tariff question. The first part of the book, entitled "1914 and After," contains notes on British capital outside Britain, tariff relations between Great Britain and the dominions, and other papers designed to show the unwisdom of the protective policy. Part ii, entitled "The Preferential Delusion," contains a statement of the various preferential arrangements between the different parts of the empire, and an argument against the permanent maintenance of any system of protection or preference. Mr. Pulsford is firmly of the opinion that under the new conditions brought about by the war, the maintenance of the British Empire will be impossible on any other basis than that of free trade.

Six lectures delivered before large and eager audiences at King's College, London, are comprised in *The Empire and the Future* (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1916; xv, 110 pp.). Mr. Steel-Maitland, under-secretary for the colonies, contributes an informing introduction presenting the response of the dominions to Great Britain's call for men in the war and the restraint shown by the dominions in the matter of open criticism. But after recalling Gallipoli, he points out the impossibility of tolerating a repetition of the present system of administration. He insists also that the world will judge the value of the British Empire just as much from the way in which it deals with the colored races as from its success in uniting the scattered democracies of European descent. Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, now minister of education, discusses imperial administration, recalling the fact that the Empire does not possess an administrative system and showing that such a system can come into existence only as the result of the prior creation of an imperial legislature. His statements regarding the American civil service disclose an astounding lack of knowledge concerning the far-reaching changes that have been accomplished since the establishment of the Federal Civil Service Commission. Mr. A. L. Smith in discussing the People and the Duties of Empire, gives the impression that the dominions in their development tend toward gov-