

In his *Modern Democracies* Lord Bryce regretted that historians and political philosophers have paid so little attention to the governmental institutions of the twenty republics (other than the United States) in the Western Hemisphere. "Most writers," he said, "have been content to refer to them as awful examples of what befalls people who have cast themselves loose from monarchical institutions. Even Sir Henry Maine in his ingenious but elusive book on *Popular Government* (published in 1885) did not hesitate to make them the basis of his case against Democracy." Especially welcome, therefore, is a very careful study of the political institutions of one of these countries, L. S. Rowe's *The Federal System of the Argentine Republic* (Washington: The Carnegie Institution, 1921; vii, 161 pp.). It should be of particular interest to American students since the constitution of the United States has had a great deal of influence on the form and content of the Argentine federal system. This influence, Mr. Rowe points out, has been exaggerated, and the constitutional practices of the two countries disclose many contrasts of fundamental significance. "The opportunity is thus afforded to study the operation of constitutional provisions identical in form under totally different conditions." Half of the monograph is given over to historical material and a discussion of the relation of the federal government to the provinces. The second half is devoted to the organization and principles of the federal system. The bibliographical note is a complete index of works on Argentine's constitutional law and appendices give the text of the constitution, a summary of the electoral law, some documents illustrative of the republic's constitutional development, and statistics of illiteracy—a condition which makes some oligarchic and central control inevitable. Mr. Rowe's study was made during an extensive residence in Argentine. If it is followed by monographs on some of the other South American governments, Lord Bryce's regret will no longer be well founded.

For many years to come students of politics will be profoundly interested in the manner in which governments met the tests imposed upon them by the exigencies of the world war. Flexible constitutions were changed; rigid constitutions were stretched to the breaking point; new experiments were made; machinery functioned differently and was added to. A rather conservative critic has said that in England Mr. Lloyd George's War Cabinet worked as many changes in the English Constitution as had the previous century of growth. In the United States the chief effects were in the vast

extension of the powers of the federal government and the increased importance of the presidential office. The latter problem is fully dealt with by Mr. Clarence A. Berdahl's *War Powers of the Executive in the United States* (Urbana, University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences, 1921; 296 pp.). Prepared as a doctoral dissertation, the study is an admirable example of the possibilities of laborious and meticulous research. Mr. Berdahl's labors have made him familiar with all sorts of sources: secondary treatises, judicial decisions, histories, biographies, newspaper articles, presidential messages, executive orders, treaties, public documents, and the *Congressional Record*. A phrase is even translated from an article written for a French periodical by Professor Garner, of the University of Illinois. According to Mr. Berdahl's classification, the President's powers are divisible into four groups: powers relating to the beginning of war; military powers in time of war; civil powers in time of war, and powers relating to the termination of war. The third group is the most interesting and the most difficult; the questions it raises are not so much those of constitutional law as of political control, departmental articulation, and administrative organization. Mr. Berdahl gives so many details that one retains only a very hazy picture of what actually happened. Special administrative agencies; police supervision with regard to aliens and censorship, control of food, fuel, trade, industry, transportation and communication—these were the most difficult problems of the war government. The experience acquired in dealing with them should furnish valuable lessons for the future. Mr. Berdahl gives all the facts but is reluctant to praise or criticize, and the reader of this part of his monograph will not have any clear impression of administrative machinery which was well run with the President as chief engineer, or that was so poorly adjusted that it failed, or was able to function only with great waste. The very extensive footnotes and a full bibliography help to make the study of value to students.

Two technically useful little volumes of a complementary sort have recently come to our desk. In *Field Work and Social Research* (New York, The Century Company, 1920; xi, 224 pp.), Professor F. Stuart Chapin (Smith College) has accumulated in a practical arrangement data and exhibits of well-tested methods used in making first-hand investigations of conditions of living and of laboring. The information which Dr. Chapin has collected is organized in such a manner as to make the volume valuable as a handbook as well as a reference work. The use of field-work findings