

way in quiet order down the long hall to take their turn at the rostrum in front of the platform. They did not waste their words; but they made their meaning clear. Neither did they spare the feelings of such representatives of the Central Board as were present as visitors upon the platform. They scorned to sell their independence "for a paltry £400," drawn from funds to which, it may be noted, the women, no less than the men, contribute. It is half their income, but they cheerfully faced a reduced exchequer and increased endeavors to raise the sum within the Guild as the price of their freedom. "We are out for improved conditions for women and children, yes, and for men; but we are not out to work as subordinates." "We want to work on an equal footing, but we are not prepared to be dominated." The vote was overwhelming. It was the women's Declaration of Independence.

The question of Divorce, which had raised the storm, was kept subordinate. After pointing out that there was no intention to coerce a minority, but only to allow to a majority the freedom of their consciences, speakers left this topic for the larger issue.

The turn of Divorce came later. The debate on this subject next day showed that the feeling for reform was stronger even than last year. The ideal of married life is high among Guildswomen, as is the actual standard of their married lives. They do not take marriage lightly. You could tell that from the spontaneous burst of applause that followed the reminder that men and women take one another for better, for worse. But the tragedies of broken lives that come within the range of their experience rouse them to a demand for better and humaner marriage laws to save human beings from unnecessary suffering and degradation. When the red voting tickets were held up in support of the recommendations of the majority report, the hall looked like a field of poppies. The addition of mutual consent as a ground of divorce was approved by a large majority, and the need for women assessors in court was endorsed by the whole meeting.

The Guild has naturally taken from the start great interest in the question of maternity benefit, and as an outcome of this interest it has this year brought forward a scheme for the national care of maternity, by means of maternity centers, under the care of the public health authorities, where ante-natal conditions may be studied, with opportunity for consultations on pregnancy sickness, with municipal midwives and with an increased maternity benefit, which would allow of a period of rest both before and after the confinement. On this subject the women, speaking from first-hand knowledge, speak as experts, and the backing of the Guild should give cogency to the representations on behalf of the scheme that are being made to Cabinet Ministers. But here, as

elsewhere, the women feel the lack of the driving power of the vote, and a rider was added to the resolution, which was carried with only four dissentients, urging a Government measure of parliamentary and municipal franchise for all adult women, and, what is more significant, urging all Guildswomen to refrain from working for any candidate who would not pledge himself to this reform.

The other subjects for discussion included schemes for the education of Guildswomen, and for a co-operative college, and the speeches revealed the passionate hunger of these women for educational opportunities. "We are crazed for education." . . .

We are used to hearing benevolent people tell us what, in their opinion, must be done for working women. Would it not be perhaps worth while to ask the women what they want? For it is quite certain that they know.

BOOKS

THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.

The Operation of the New Bank Act. By Thomas Conway, Jr., and Ernest Patterson. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

This book, as the authors say in the preface, "endeavors to analyze the effects of a monumental piece of legislation, marking a distinct change of policy in one of the most important lines of business in the country." It is likely to impress the reader as a candid and impartial statement of the results reached after a careful study of the Act. The defects of the previous banking system are set forth in the first chapter, and the need of new legislation is fully recognized. The new law is examined in detail; there are summaries of the arguments of friends and foes as to the most important of the provisions which have aroused controversy.

On some points the authors reserve their opinion, holding that time alone can show the effect of the law, and that, while it is a great piece of governmental machinery, much will depend on the ability and judgment of the Federal Reserve Board and the Secretary of the Treasury. On other controverted questions, however, there is a decided expression of opinion. For example, the claim that bankers should supervise the banking system, which was frequently urged while the bill was before Congress, receives no support from the authors of this book. The presence of a banker on the Federal Reserve Board, they think, would be analogous to that of a railway official on the Interstate Commerce Commission. But they make it clear that the new law will not unduly interfere

with bankers in the management of their business. "Many have either not read carefully its provisions or else have lost sight of the most important fact in the whole problem, which is that no system can eliminate the personality of the banker. Banking law is, in all countries, far less important than banking practice."

WILLIAM E. MCKENNA.



THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

They Who Knock at Our Gates. By Mary Antin. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

Mary Antin, author of "The Promised Land," takes up in her second book the question of immigration from the unusual standpoint of principle. It is not easy to argue without arousing antagonism, but Mary Antin does this by basing her thought upon the Declaration of Independence and on principles that are almost universally accepted—until we come to apply them. She clearly sees the Land Question and ought to be, if she is not already, a Singletaxer. The book has about twenty thousand words—clear and readable, and sometimes, especially in the last chapter, rising to the eloquence of simple earnestness; as for instance—"the common people, the toilers for daily bread, who give all when they give aught, because they have not enough to divide."

It is easy to get lost in considerations of percentages of delinquency, poverty, insanity, unemployment and so on, concerning our immigrants, but there is no such obscurity about the fundamental principles that this Jewish thinker states.

BOLTON HALL.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Within Prison Walls. By Thomas Mott Osborne. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.50 net.

—The System of Taxation in China and in the Tsing Dynasty, 1644-1911. By Shao-Kwan Chen. Whole Number 143, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, paper, \$1.00 net.

—The Currency Problem in China. By Wen Pin Wel. Whole Number 144, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, paper, \$1.25 net.

—A History of the General Property Tax in Illinois. By Robert Murray Haig. Volume III, Nos. 1 and 2, University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences. Published by the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 1914. Price, paper, \$1.25 net.

—The Development of Modern Turkey as Measured by its Press. By Ahmed Emin. Whole Number 142, Columbia University Studies in History, Eco-

nomics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, paper, \$1.00 net.

—Modern Industry, in relation to the Family, Health, Education, Morality. By Florence Kelley. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

—Conquest of the Tropics. By Frederick Upham Adams. Romance of Big Business, Vol. I. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

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