

published by the secretary of the Society, Mr. Theodore Marburg, (Baltimore, 216 pp.) and contains the papers read at the annual meeting of the Society held in Cincinnati last November. In pursuance of the aim of the Society to emphasize at each meeting the most prominent current phase of the peace movement, the discussions at the first meeting were primarily concerned with the proposition to create a court of arbitral justice, while at the second meeting it was natural that the proposed general arbitration treaties with England and France, at that time pending in the senate, should have bulked largest in the discussions and addresses. The attitude of the administration toward the treaties is well presented in addresses by President Taft and Secretary Knox. The subsequent action of the senate perhaps renders some of the matters discussed of only passing interest, but other more general matters also received attention, such as the possibilities of the permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, and the means of educating public opinion in favor of peace.

(Book notes have been contributed to this department of the REVIEW by Mr. E. M. Borchard, Profs. J. W. Garner, M. H. Robinson, J. A. Fairlie, J. M. Mathews, and others.)

THE WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

The State Board of Public Affairs, authorized by the legislature of Wisconsin at the session of 1911, is composed of the governor, secretary of State, chairmen of the finance committees of the Senate and Assembly, and three other persons appointed by the governor. The administration of the affairs of the Board is in the hands of Dr. B. M. Rastall, director, until recently the assistant director of the Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency, and of Mr. Robert A. Campbell, secretary, formerly in charge of the Legislative Reference Library of California.

Under the auspices of the Board an investigation into the school system of the State is now being conducted, emphasizing especially the condition and needs of the rural schools. Mr. S. G. Lindholm, of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, is supervising this survey, assisted by Dr. Horace L. Brittain and Mr. A. N. Farmer, also of the Bureau of Municipal Research. The investigation covers all phases of the subject—equipment, supply and efficiency of instructors, the school as a social factor, consolidation of school districts, school history of pupils, inspection, hygiene and sanitation. Nor does the survey end with the school itself. A thorough study

of the accounts of school and town clerks is also carried on, looking to the establishment of uniform and accurate systems of school accounts and reports.

A great part of the work of the Board is naturally based upon the financial affairs of the State. Expert accountants are employed under the immediate supervision of Dr. Rastall. One group is auditing the accounts of the University of Wisconsin, the Board of Control, and Stout Institute, the school for manual training, located at Menomonie, while another group is engaged upon a study of the books of the Secretary of State, which will be made the basis for the establishment of an improved and uniform system of accounting for all the State departments.

In connection with the work upon the finances of the State, Mr. S. Gale Lowrie is studying the methods and amounts of appropriations made by the State Legislature, and making a comparison of these with other states and foreign countries. This study is calculated to determine whether, under the present form of government, the budget system may be profitably adopted by the State.

Under the direction of Dr. Charles McCarthy, librarian of the Legislative Reference Department, Mr. William M. Duffus is investigating questions pertaining to immigration and settlement, some of them general, as the protection of settlers, especially foreigners, from unscrupulous real estate dealers; and others peculiar to Wisconsin, such as the efficiency of "the stump bond law," enacted by the Legislature of 1911, and providing state aid for those settlers taking up land from which the timber has been cut.

Mr. John F. Sinclair, also under the supervision of Dr. McCarthy, is making a study of the problems of co-operation, municipal markets and the marketing of certain agricultural products. In this last investigation the Board is working in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin, Prof. H. C. Taylor and several students being engaged in the work.

Mr. G. L. Sprague, formerly efficiency expert for the Allis-Chalmers Company of Milwaukee, is employed by the Board to make a survey of the various departments of the State government, for the purpose of securing the best possible service for the State, such efficiency, in fact, as would be demanded of employees in private establishments. In this work Mr. Sprague has the assistance of Mr. F. E. Doty, secretary of the State Civil Service Commission.

LORIAN P. JEFFERSON.