

BOOK REVIEWS

Modern Democracies. By JAMES BRYCE. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921. Two volumes.)

This work is a comparative study of present day democratic government. It is evidently designed primarily for the general reader who wants a survey and appraisal of democratic development down to date. The countries selected for special consideration are the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France and Switzerland. In these two volumes, which are about two-thirds the size of the author's American Commonwealth, 165 pages are devoted to the government of the United States.

"What I desire", says Viscount Bryce in his preface, "is, not to impress upon my readers views of my own, but to supply them with facts, and (so far as I can) with explanations of facts on which they can reflect and from which they can draw their own conclusions." It is fortunate that he does not keep his promise in this respect, since his wide experience, wealth of information and pre-eminence as a student of modern democracy make his conclusions a highly important part of a work of this sort.

The author divides his discussion into three parts. Part I deals with the basic principles of democratic government, the evolution and characteristic features of democracy and its relation to religion, education and the press. Part II sketches governmental organization and practice in the six countries considered. Part III gives his conclusions. The student of political science will find the general discussion of democratic government in parts I and III the most interesting and valuable portion of this work.

He recognizes all the defects of democracy, yet his conclusions are upon the whole favorable to this form of government. One of the dangers to which he calls attention is the "concentration of power in the executive." Moreover, democracy is no longer regarded as an "End, precious in itself because it was the embodiment of liberty," but merely as a means. His general viewpoint is indicated in this statement: "However grave the indictment that may be brought against democracy, its friends can answer, 'What better alternative do you offer?'"

The tone which pervades this work is distinctly less optimistic

concerning the future of democracy than that of his earlier writings. The discouraging results of the World War are clearly reflected in his conclusions. "The question", he says, "whether men will rise toward the higher standard which the prophets of democracy deemed possible, has been exercising every thoughtful mind since August 1914, and it will be answered less hopefully now than it would have been at any time in the hundred years preceding."

J. ALLEN SMITH.

In the Alaska-Yukon Gamelands. By J. A. McGUIRE. (Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company, 1921. Pp. 215. \$3.00).

The sixteen beautiful illustrations are from photographs by the author. These alone would prove Mr. McGuire an enthusiastic lover of wild life. Another evidence is his dedication page: "To those princely spirits of our land who have given, in time and money, that our precious wild life may be preserved to posterity this volume is affectionately dedicated by the author."

The great authority on big game, William T. Hornaday, in writing the introduction for this volume discusses the importance of the relatively recent development of the habitat groups in the best museums. In this connection he says: "Many sportsmen have gone far, risked much and toiled long in the procuring of rare animals and accessories for habitat groups. In the list of unpaid men who have done so, we find the names of Theodore Roosevelt, Col. Cecil Clay, John M. Phillips, Childs Frick, Richard Tjader, C. V. R. Radcliffe, W. S. Rainsford and the author of this volume."

The author has a racy style. After explaining why the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, was ambitious to possess groups of big game from Alaska he says: "A two-and-a-half-day streak along smooth rails landed our party of four in Seattle, where we met John H. Bunch, the Sequoian chief of the Alaska Steamship Company's destinies in that district; George Allen, the vim-and-vigor merchant of that burg, and C. C. Filson, the outing goods outfitter and manufacturer of the well-known Filson Cruiser Shirt. These genial gentlemen seemed to lose all interest in their business, their families and their religion, when we struck the city, for they gave up everything for our comfort and amusement."

The story of the successful hunting is well told and much information is recorded about goat, sheep, moose and caribou. The