



THE NEW BOOKS



ened to the necessity for reorganization; some of the work of reorganization has already been done.

State Government in the United States, by Arthur N. Holcombe. The Macmillan Company. \$2.25. *Principles of American State Administration*, by John Mabry Mathews. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.50.

OUR STATE GOVERNMENTS

Professor Arthur N. Holcombe, of Harvard, in his *State Government in the United States*, and Professor John Mabry Mathews, of Illinois University, in his *Principles of American State Administration*, have rendered us a real service in pointing out the weaknesses in our system of state government and in indicating possible methods of reform.

Professor Holcombe's discussion is broader in scope tho less analytical than that of Professor Mathews. He deals with the entire system of state government—legislative, executive and judicial. For the most part he is content to set before his readers the facts about state government: its origin, its development, the relation between the voters and the legislative and executive departments, the modifications which have come about as the result of agitation, and the outlook for further reform.

Professor Mathews, on the other hand, has confined himself to a study of state administrative organizations and functions. He discusses only the powers and duties of the governor, the heads of departments, and the special administrative boards and commissions, but he approaches his subject in the spirit of a man with a positive program. He insists on keeping before his readers the haphazard organization, the countless incongruities and absurdities which result from a complicated mass of separate and disjointed authorities over which no one, not even the voter, has any adequate control. In spite of the all pervading gloom, however, Professor Mathews is conscious of a ray of hope. Many of the states have awak-