

was filled with an undue reverence for rank and an almost superstitious veneration for its representatives.

An unhappy, discontented woman was this "second madame," a woman sadly ill-adjusted to her lot in life. She had no inner life of the soul into which to retreat when her outward life proved unsatisfying. Her death occurred at a ripe old age, and she met it with courage and cheerfulness. To her son she said: "Why do you weep? Is it not necessary to die?" And to a lady of the court who wished to kiss her hand she said, "You may now embrace me, for I am going to a country where all are equal." This slight sketch is well done as far as it goes. A volume of madame's own letters would, however, be of far more value than this short biography.

Municipal Government in Europe.

"Municipal Government in Continental Europe." By Albert Shaw. [The Century Co. \$2.00.]

Dr. Albert Shaw gives nearly half the space in this very instructive volume to the French system and to Paris, "the typical modern city." Comparatively brief chapters treat of the systems of Belgium, Holland, Spain, and Italy, and Germany occupies the remaining room, special attention being given to Berlin, Vienna, Hamburg, and Buda-Pesth. Dr. Shaw grants Paris preëminence here, as in his first volume Glasgow occupied the leading position. The conclusion of his description is reassuring to all believers in municipal reform in our country:

The experience of Paris, candidly studied, ought to convince the most skeptical that there is no modern community of civilized men which cannot afford to provide, for its areas of dense population, the most perfect public appointments that technical and scientific knowledge have discovered and prescribed. Well-made and clean streets, good water, proper drainage, convenient transit facilities, complete schools, thorough sanitary organization—these at least should be considered the irreducible minimum. No city should think itself rich enough to prosper without them, and no city is so poor that it cannot afford them if it has any reason whatever for continued existence. But further than this indispensable minimum, any city might hopefully bend its energies toward the acquisition of the finest flowers and fruits of culture and art. Paris has exemplified these propositions with an unflinching faith in science, in art, and in civilization that deserves our homage.

Dr. Shaw has done a great service by the investigations and studies of which his two volumes on municipal government are the admirable result. These books should be found in every public library throughout our country.

The Second Madame.

"The Second Madame." A Memoir of Elizabeth Charlotte, Duchess d'Orleans. By M. Louise McLaughlin. [G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.]

The sister-in-law of the wicked Louis XIV did not lead an enviable life. Her husband was effeminate, vain, and frivolous, and there were many who suspected him of having had something to do with the death of his first wife. Nor was the Duchess of Orleans herself a woman of much prudence. Her chief amusement in life was writing letters, but although she knew that most of her correspondence was opened, she did not restrain herself from alluding to Madame de Maintenon as a "hateful old thing" even at a period in her life when the king's favor was an important matter with her. Destiny placed this woman in a palace, when she would have been much happier in a cottage:

Her simple tastes would have been satisfied with an humble life, yet she was forced to endure the wearisome ceremonies of a court. Her good common sense led her to estimate these things at their true value, yet such were the prejudices of her birth and education that she