

The Better Country. By Dana W. Bartlett.
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pany. Pp. 555. \$1.50.

No great literary art has gone to the writing of *The Better Country*. The style is bald and without grace or dignity. The arrangement of the book is poor, and the subjects are miscellaneous and lacking in correlation. Nevertheless, Mr. Bartlett has produced a little book which ought to be in every household and school in the country, and which should be read, not only by men and women interested in the prosperity and well-being of the country, but by every boy and girl in whom may be awakened a spirit of social service and of true patriotism. In the short space of this one volume Mr. Bartlett has brought together the many lines of progress which are now being followed by the Government of the United States. He tells of irrigation, forest preservation, roads and waterways, life-saving and education, and of the combat with disease in plants, animals and mankind. He also describes the work on the Panama Isthmus, both of building the Canal, and for the welfare of the workers. The work in cities—social settlements, care of infant life, and efforts to combat the tenement evil are not neglected, and Mr. Bartlett devotes a chapter to the progress of the nation toward greater democracy—the movement for the initiative, referendum and recall. Taken as a whole it is an account of the beneficent work of Government in its collectivist activities—its new sphere as distinguished from the older individualistic conception of the duties of government—the defense of the country from external enemies and the policing of society. It is a curious lack in a man writing from Los Angeles, where woman suffrage has so recently been adopted, that while Mr. Bartlett heartily commends woman suffrage as practised in Norway, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand, not even in describing the trend toward greater democracy does he make any mention of the extraordinary and widespread demand for the vote by the women of the nation which is so largely inspired by the desire of women to take their part in social service and national uplift.