

TODAY'S HISTORY

Professor Beard does not apparently agree with Freeman's famous dictum that "history is past politics." To him history is just as properly "present economics." In his account of the development of the United States from the Reconstruction period to the inauguration of President Wilson he follows in the main the strict outline afforded by party politics, but it is politics explained by economic changes and half-conscious class movements. The author

is even bolder in his method of treatment than in his undertaking. He discards the chronological method and presents his material topically, omitting all detail which does not illustrate or explain the topics which he has chosen to treat. These he elaborates at considerable length and gives a vast amount of information on just those subjects which are most apt to be ignored by the ordinary American history. Thus in his chapter on "The Revolution in Politics and Law" he devotes about a tenth of the whole book to a digest of the various decisions of the Supreme Court by which it came to interpret the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution as the bulwark of corporate rights. Professor Beard, altho he treats of topics of living interest upon which he has very decided opinions, never swerves from the strict impartiality of the historian. For this reason as well as for the author's scholarship and grasp of the factors which make our modern politics the book can be quite confidently recommended as a college textbook in civics or American history.

Contemporary American History, by
Professor Charles A. Beard. New
York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.