

IN THIS WORK Prof. Graham has undertaken an examination of socialism in order to determine what claims, if any, it has to the attention of serious thinkers and social reformers. He begins by carefully distinguishing the various types of socialism that have at different times been advocated, with brief remarks on the communism of the early Christians and other socialistic experiments of olden times. But most of his work deals with that form of socialism known as collectivism, according to which the state is to be the sole owner of land and productive capital and the sole employer of labor, while all wealth intended for personal support and enjoyment is to be left in the hands of the individual. Prof. Graham shows how the prevailing ideas originated, tracing them to Rousseau, St. Simon, Karl Marx and others, and then enters on a careful examination of the proposed socialistic state, exposing the folly of the whole scheme by arguments and illustrations that ought to convince everyone not blinded by prejudice or passion. His objections to the scheme are in the main those with which students of the subject are already familiar; but he makes some new points, and in particular shows clearly and conclusively the impossibility of fixing wages in the socialistic state in any way that would not leave the laborers as discontented as they are now.

The author's arguments are the more effective from the fact that he avows his sympathy with the socialists in the end which they profess to aim at—administration of the present inequality of conditions; and after showing the impracticability of their scheme, he offers some suggestions on the 'practicable state socialism' which he wishes and hopes to see put into practice. They are for the most part already familiar to the public from having been advocated by other writers, and we cannot see that he presents any new or more cogent arguments in their favor. State ownership of railroads, allotments of land to laborers, and state loans to co-operative societies are some of the means for improving the lot of the poor that Prof. Graham asks us to adopt; but we confess that we see little promise of good from any such schemes, while the objections to them have often been pointed out. We have as strong a desire as Prof. Graham or the collectivists themselves for the elevation and improvement of the working classes; but we realize the impossibility of making everybody rich, and we also realize that elevation and improvement do not consist in an increase

* Socialism New and Old. By William Graham. \$1.75. (International Scientific Series.) D. Appleton & Co.

of wealth. Meanwhile we commend Prof. Graham's book as containing much that is good, and also as better written than such works are apt to be.

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