

....In *The American Electoral System*, by Charles A. O'Neil, LL.B., we have a more or less voluminous review of the history of our Presidential campaigns from the first to the last, with the conclusion drawn that the electoral system is a failure, and that some constitutional reform is urgent, which shall rearrange the basis of election upon a more equal basis and prohibit a second term. The author does not give sufficient weight to the consideration that the Republic is not a simple Democracy in which the states are provinces or departments, but a federation in which the states are the high contracting parties. Inequalities of population have nothing to do with the right of the matter, so long as the basis of the election is not population but states. The majority in each state decides how that state shall vote, but the election of President is made by the states. There is no question of natural right applicable to such a matter. It is a question of political constitution. Whether the permanence of the electoral system is desirable or not depends on our estimate of the Federal system. If the United States are to remain a Federation of States, the election of President will have to be made by the states. There are inconveniences connected with the electoral system which represent this idea. An argument can be made for the pure democracy of a general poll. But those of us who value the Federal idea and believe in the states as important in the political system of the country find it easy to believe also that their importance is great enough to make it worth while to pay a price for and to suffer some inconvenience to support them. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price, \$1.50).—The latest admission to the Messrs. Putnam's "Questions of the Day" series, is *The Fishery Question: Its Origin, History, and Present Situation*, by Charles Isham. The basis of this valuable review of the Canadian Fishery question is a thesis in the United States History Seminar, of the Graduate Department of Harvard. It is provided with a map of the fishing grounds and a short bibliography. Mr. Isham has studied the subject carefully, and writes with the judicial impartiality of a student whose sole interest is that of truth and justice.