tions that beset women in this country, against corrupt politicians and crooked election practices, and against the exploitation of underdogs everywhere.

The Gilded Age, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Huckleberry Finn, The Mysterious Stranger, and others reiterate "Twain's lifelong suspicion," Budd says, "that the mass of mankind is venal, doltish, feckless, and tyrannical, that the damn fools make up a majority anywhere" (p. 54). For forty years Mark Twain drubbed American society, government, and morals, and while he was about it cudgelled those of the rest of the world as well. The world listened so docilely that he merited his title of "self-appointed ambassador-at-large of the United State of America—without salary" (p. 188).

Much has been written about Mark Twain's social and political attitudes, but Mark Twain: Social Philosopher is the most comprehensive study of the subject that has been made. Mr. Budd's treatment is thorough and detailed, supported by illuminating analysis and plentiful documentation. He presents his material well in a forthright, readable style that moves at a springy pace agreeably free from academic heavy-footedness. If the book gives a somewhat distorted picture of Mark Twain as only a social critic and nothing more—omitting the casual humor of the man being funny for the sake of fun—that distortion is not the fault of the author, who has concentrated admirably upon his subject. He concludes, justly: "Lifelong concern with society and its politics is vital to the Twain that will endure" (p. 215).

Purdue University

Paul Fatout


This handsome book is the third volume to appear in the American Epochs Series devoted to pivotal periods in the American past as revealed in the writings of contemporaries who helped to shape the various epochs. The decade and a half before World War I—the progressive years—was unquestionably one of the most profoundly significant periods in American history. It was pre-eminently an era of reform, of challenge to old habits and institutions by the pervasive ideology of "progress," and of a remarkable unleashing of energies that spent themselves in the confident endeavor to realize the promise of American life. Professor Pease, of Stanford University, attempts to illuminate these years through unified and substantial selections from a dozen "writers and doers," men and women who "embodied their age" (p. xiii). The selections are far-ranging, including, for example, Frederic C. Howe on the city, Jane Addams on Hull-House, and Lawrence Veiller on the tenement house problem; Lincoln Steffens on the struggle for self-government in Wisconsin; the reports of the federal commissions on industrial relations and country life; Eugene V. Debs on unionism and socialism; Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson on national reform; Walter Lippmann and William James on the possibilities of
American society; and the incomparable Mr. Dooley's dissertations on such topics as immigration and national housecleaning.

In choosing to present unified selections from a few writers rather than brief excerpts from numerous sources, the editor was forced to sacrifice a good deal of the scope and variety encompassed in the progressive movement. One finds little in this volume, for instance, about prohibition, woman suffrage, penal reform, the anticorporation movement, or efforts to democratize the political process. The informed reader will note the relative neglect of progressivism as it manifested itself on the state level and the inability of the editor within his framework to reveal much of the al that turned the ordinary American into a reformer during the progressive years. The problem of selection is always difficult in a work of this kind, and success or failure in this respect will depend to some extent upon the reader's predilections. Yet even when this is conceded, the failure to show more adequately the character and extent of reform movements on the state level weakens the volume. On the other hand, the editor offers new insights into the nature of progressivism by focusing some attention on socialism and foreign policy.

Furthermore, the writings reproduced here are more than random selections. They possess a unity of theme that attests to the care and skill with which they were chosen and arranged, and this quality of the work as a whole is enhanced by Professor Pease's perceptive introductory essay and prefatory notes. The latter are immensely suggestive and their soundness of fact and interpretation is not typified by the editor's observation in one place that Woodrow Wilson was the only southerner since Andrew Jackson to have occupied the White House (p. 343). Within the limits of its approach this is a useful and illuminating anthology: the mind and spirit of the progressive spokesmen are evoked clearly and forcefully.

Vanderbilt University Dewey W. Grantham, Jr.


The early years of the twentieth century in the United States are often remembered for the ascendancy of the progressive movement and for a growing trend toward an idealistic foreign policy. The election of 1920 proclaimed that a halt had been called to both of these developments, and the nation turned its face toward what was described as normalcy. Professor Bagby, already the author of three articles on smaller aspects of the subject, "describes the process and attempts to analyze the factors that contributed to these momentous shifts in national policy" (p. 13). In so doing he focuses on political events but touches on social, economic, and intellectual conditions in his opening and concluding paragraphs.