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Social Progress, by Ulysses G. Weatherly

Paul L. Sayre

Indiana University School of Law

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Social Progress. By Ulysses G. Weatherly. J. B. Lippincott Company. Philadelphia. 1926, pp. xviii, 388. Price \$3.00.

This is a kindly book in which the good points and the bad points of the various forces in social life and various theories of social progress are considered dispassionately and given a reasonable evaluation. It would seem that Professor Weatherly does not think that any one principle or any one group of values is likely to be the crucial one in determining social progress. The book deals with economic and sociological facts and their influence on social progress. It also deals with the various schools of political theory and the effect on progress of the various tendencies in political and social life, as well as the various factors in human pathology that must effect social progress regardless of political and social theories.

The book is divided into five parts: Conditions, Attitudes, Factors, Pathology, Process and Product. Under these somewhat general heads he deals with the economic, political, social and pathological questions that are set forth more particularly in the many separate chapters. The book is four hundred pages in length and contains many foot-note references with "suggested readings" at the end of each chapter. The foot-note references are admirable in that generally they give specific authorities for the statements made in the text.

The estimate of the general editor given in the introduction to the book that this is a scholarly book dealing with social progress in a sober way seems amply substantiated. Professor Weatherly refers to the statement of John Stewart Mill to the effect that it will be unfortunate if those who

believe that everything should be changed and those who believe that nothing should be changed cannot work together on particular undertakings apart from their general theories. Professor Weatherly says that his own outlook on social progress "is pluralistic and humanistic." No doubt it is; and probably 'it is positivistic also in that he looks out on conditions and finds that each theory or each explanation may have some truth but that it falls short of solving the whole problem.

Surely the book is excellent not only for the student in the field of Sociology but for the general reader who wants some comment pro and con upon the various factors in social progress that are constantly discussed.