

The New Books

THE LEADER OF THE BOERS

General Botha, in the faithful study of the man and his career by Harold Spender, appears to possess the best qualities of both statesman and soldier. He is a man whose self control, foresight and sturdy honesty of purpose are not to be led astray by passion, persuasion or prejudice. He not only won victories for the Boers in the field, but saw clearly that when the end of such had come a greater victory in peace was still possible for his people. It was he who counseled moderation with the "Bitter-enders" in South Africa; persuaded the frigid British Colonial Secretary Chamberlain; and strove persistently for the goal of a union of South Africa. This was a path beset with difficulties and Mr. Spender shows that General Botha's eventual triumph was due in large measure to his ability to win enemies to his side.

At the outbreak of the great war General Botha's attitude was in conformity with his whole career. There was no casting of a backward thought, but a steady forward vision for the well-being and greatness of the united people of South Africa. Mr. Spender compares General Botha with William III of Orange and with Washington. Oliver Cromwell comes also to mind as a prototype by reason of what one may term the Puritan farmer strain in both.

General Botha, by Harold Spender. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.