

The War and Its Issues

THOSE who wish to know what England, or, at least, the so-called governing class of England, is thinking about the future may profitably examine *After-War Problems*, a symposium of British statesmen, divines, professors, jurists, physicians and social workers on the readjustments which will be necessitated by the war. Of particular interest is the study of imperial federation by the late Earl of Cromer, altho it comes to no particular conclusion except that federation is desirable and that the way to federate has not yet been worked out, and the discussion of national education by Viscount Haldane, who recommends taking hints from Germany's secondary and technical schools. Most of the essays in the volume deal with the condition of the poor and the possibility of bettering it after the war.

Of recent discussions of the Great War one of the most interesting, tho rather from the prominence of the author than from the novelty of the views presented, is Senator Henry Cabot Lodge's *War Addresses*, including not only speeches made on the floor of the Senate but many miscellaneous addresses on questions of foreign policy and preparedness. Not every one will share the opinions of the distinguished Senator, but fortunately one need not do so to enjoy the force and neatness of expression in which he clothes them. Most writers on internationalism are more optimistic than Senator Lodge, who sees no counsel for the future but trust in God and good care that our powder remain dry. Malcolm Quin discusses *The Problem of Human Peace* from the standpoint of Roman Catholicism. He admits that the Catholic Church has not been in human history a power for peace but he still believes that the only road to a lasting peace is by the agreement of mankind on a common program of in-

ternational righteousness such as religion may teach. George Louis Beer, in *The English-Speaking Peoples*, sympathizes with all internationalist movements, but maintains that a close and permanent alliance of the British Empire and the United States is the most practical first step toward world peace. He reinforces his conclusion with an effective array of citations from public men of many countries who have discussed the growing unity and fellow feeling of the English-speaking world.

The controversial volumes on the Great War are not so numerous this year as in the earlier years of the war; there seems to be a general feeling that everything that can be said has been said, an opinion which is not changed by the new books which do appear. A very sensible plea for the cause of the Entente Allies is Christen Collin's *The War Against War*. The author is a professor in the University of Christiania and his main appeal is to his fellow Norwegians. George D. Herron's *The Menace of Peace* is an eloquent appeal to the Allies to endure to the end and win a complete victory for the sake of the spiritual values of humanity.

Greater Italy, by William K. Wallace, is an exceptionally full account of the ambitions of Italian imperialism and of the political situation in Italy on the eve of the entrance of the nation into the Great War. The author finds little idealism in Italy's conduct, but the very absence of it seems to attract him as a "realist." The book contains a map of what the author conceives to be Italy's projected sphere of influence in Asia Minor and in Austria. *Japan in World Politics*, by K. K. Kawakami, is a decisive answer to those who profess to dread an impending war between Japan and the United States. What particularly impresses the American reader is not the review of Japanese world policy; the particular reasons assigned for friendship with Russia, for enmity with Germany, or for aggrandizement in China; as the unaffectedly frank and good natured tone of the whole discussion. Mr. Kawakami does not paint Japan as the one infallibly just nation in a world of scoundrels (as the German apologists, for example, laud Germany) but photographs Japan exactly as she is, with all her superficial faults and errors as well as her fundamental desire to be honorable and decent in her international dealings. Another special problem, one of interest to all financiers, is treated in *The Effect of Wars and Revolutions on Government Securities*, a statistical study by E. A. A.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's second volume of his history of the Great War, *The British Campaign in France and Flanders, 1915*, covers the important year when the German advance had been halted but the best the Allies could do was to prevent its renewal. The author shows vividly by how narrow a margin the British escaped defeat, for they had not yet mastered the technique of trench building or provided themselves with an adequate supply of high explosives and only after a terrible and almost disastrous experience was the remedy found for the German "gas." Nothing but almost superhuman valor and tenacity held the line, and this was done only at a frightful cost of life. "For the greater part," he tells us, "it was not a contest between men and men, but rather one between men and metal, in which our battalions were faced by a deserted and motionless landscape, from which came the ceaseless downpour of shells and occasional drifting clouds of chlorine."

Among the personal narratives of war two are of exceptional interest. Captain Gilbert Nobbs's *On the Right of the British*

Line is the story of an officer who was blinded in battle, captured by the enemy, lived for months as a prisoner of war and was in the meantime reported to the people at home as dead. Its value lies in the first hand account of conditions in German prison camps. The author of *A Hilltop on the Marne*, Mildred Aldrich, has written a sequel to that wonderful book, carrying the narrative of her life in the French country house on the Marne down to the entrance of the United States into the Great War. *On the Edge of the War Zone* has nothing quite so thrilling to relate as the earlier book, but it lacks neither interesting incidents nor charm of style.

As hereafter American interest in the Great War will be largely concerned with the doings of the soldiers from this side of the Atlantic, Robert C. Richardson's study of the daily life of the cadet at *West Point*, his work and play, is timely. When the small body of regular army officers that have graduated from that distinguished institution are swallowed up in the mass of new officers from the training camps or promoted from the ranks we wonder how much will be left of the present traditionalism, etiquet and distinctions of seniority in the *West Point* of, let us say, 1920?

After-War Problems, by the Earl of Cromer and others. Edited by William H. Dawson. The Macmillan Company. \$2.50. *Japan in World Politics*, by K. K. Kawakami. Macmillan. \$1.50. *War Addresses, 1915 to 1917*, by Henry Cabot Lodge. Houghton, Mifflin Company. \$2.50. *The Problem of Human Peace*, by Malcolm Quin. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3. *The English-Speaking Peoples*, by Geo. L. Beer. The Macmillan Company. \$1.50. *The War Against War*, by Christen Collin. The Macmillan Company. 80 cents. *The Menace of Peace*, by Geo. D. Herron. Mitchell Kennerley. \$1. *Greater Italy*, by William Kay Wallace. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50. *The Effect of Wars and Revolutions on Government Securities*, by E. Kerr. New York: William Morris Imbrie & Co. 50 cents. *The British Campaign in France and Flanders, 1915*, by Sir A. Conan Doyle. Geo. H. Doran & Co. \$2. *On the Right of the British Line*, by Captain Gilbert Nobbs. Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.25. *On the Edge of the War Zone*, by Mildred Aldrich. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.25. *West Point*, by Robert C. Richardson, Jr. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.