

## Notes

**"THE** rise of Islam is perhaps the most amazing event in human history," says Lothrop Stoddard in his new book "The New World of Islam" (Scribner), in which he rather apprehensively calls our attention to events occurring in Mohammedan lands. He aptly describes Mohammedanism, showing how it started about 650 A. D. from a comparatively insignificant nucleus, reaching its climax in 1000 A. D., when it covered the greater part of the then known world, after which it rapidly declined until today it is at a crucial point in its history.

As with all great religious movements, the crucial test comes when they have expanded to the point where their leaders differently interpret their fundamental laws. To the West, except to students, Islam has always presented a picture of the homogeneous mind entirely in harmony as to religion and religious leadership. Stoddard's book brings the realization that Islam is a house not only divided against itself on religious issues, but that its leaders have also attempted to combine with these many of the issues causing turmoil and unrest in the Western World today, such as Nationalism, Socialism and Bolshevism. The effect of attempting to foist these theories on a people which has not gone through the industrial revolution of the Western World is difficult to foretell. It is certain that the best policy is for the West to guide the East by the education of its leaders to avoid the mistakes and pitfalls which have caused so much trouble in the development of our industrial and economic history.

Lothrop Stoddard's fear that the World of Islam may again combine in a movement of the East against the West is open to doubt. The success of any such movement, as this last war has shown, will be largely dependent on their relative industrial development. Progressing as at present, the West will probably continue to maintain its leadership, unless, of course, its people are afflicted with some devastating movement such as Bolshevism in Russia today.

The book is an excellent analysis of the situation in the Near and Middle East. It both arouses and satisfies interest in those regions.