

tion it. On the whole, if we needed evidence of the ineptitude of the War Department in dealing with conscientious objectors, and of its ostrich-like belief in the virtue of concealment, we should find it in Major Kellogg's uncomprehending observations, and in Secretary Baker's perfunctory introduction.

THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR. By Major Walter Guest Kellogg. 141 pages. Boni and Liveright.

Major Kellogg represented the army on the commission of which Judge Mack and Dean Stone were members. He has a military mind; the confusion, repetition, and mistaken emphasis of his book show that. He is haunted by what he cannot understand and he returns to it again and again. One of these things is conscience. The cases of men like Mennonites and Molokans, who are constrained by the external law of a sect to avoid bearing arms or wearing buttons, he can understand or at least classify. The absolutist and the political objector are beyond him. As for emphasis, Major Kellogg is much impressed by his own wisdom and good will in permitting objectors to appear before his court without standing at attention and saluting. He has great sympathy with officers assigned to the charge of conscientious objectors and thus deprived of the opportunity for active service in France: "It is not surprising that in a certain few cases the patience of the officer was so exhausted by the maliciously annoying attitude of various objectors in his charge that he lost his temper and maltreated them." He adds that "the Secretary of War, in one or two instances, ordered investigations and took disciplinary action against those responsible." He does not say that the disciplinary action resulted in the honorable dismissal of the officers. Major Kellogg never visited a disciplinary barracks, but is under the impression from hearsay that the objectors were fairly treated. He must have known of the way in which the Hofer brothers were tortured to death in the Federal Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz Island, but he does not men-