

## NEW BOOKS

FROM BISMARCK TO THE WORLD WAR. A HISTORY OF GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY 1870-1914. By Erich Brandenburg, Professor of Modern History in the University of Leipzig. Translated by Annie Elizabeth Adams. Oxford University Press. London. Humphrey Milford. 1927.

This very important work by Professor Brandenburg is, as he states in his preface, based on the documents preserved in the German Foreign Office, to all of which he has had free access. He points out that, the archives of the other Powers not being available at present to the historian, a complete survey of the whole field of European diplomacy during the period preceding the war is not yet possible. But he does succeed in giving a narrative, clear, comprehensive and full of interest, of the policy of the German empire and the reasons which, from time to time, determined its relations to other countries. The most valuable and praiseworthy feature of the book is its frankness, and the obvious effort of the author to be impartial in his judgment of the actions and the motives of foreign statesmen. In particular, his appraisal of English policy is temperate, and at times generous. Only when his story reaches those last fatal weeks immediately before Germany's declarations of war against Russia and France do we feel that we are listening to an advocate rather than to a judge. Herr Brandenburg is keenly sensible of the errors of German foreign policy after the firm hand of Bismarck was removed from the helm; and he makes clear the unsatisfactory nature of the system by which the responsibility for important decisions was in fact divided between the Kaiser and the leaders of his government. It is evident that while the Kaiser often acted or spoke in a way which was contrary to the policy of the Chancellor, on the other hand information of great importance was at times kept back from the sovereign, especially when von Buelow was in power. Of Wilhelm II our author says: "He had no well-thought-out political system, for he was an impulsive man, and strongly influenced by moods. Again and again we shall find him hesitating suddenly between the most divergent extremes. The personality of the emperor was much feebler than was apparent from his pompous language and those public displays of monarchical sovereignty such as he loved." . . . . . "On the whole William II influenced our policy, not so much by any permanent control of it, as by the disturbing consequences of his sudden and impulsive interferences." The estimate of von Buelow as a statesman is by no means wholly favourable. It is made clear that Germany's refusal to take advantage of the repeated overtures of England for friendly relations between the two countries was a blunder of the most serious kind, and the rivalry which Tirpitz and the Kaiser instituted by their great fleet-building programme was one of the causes

of the fatal conflict. While further light may be looked for on some of the matters discussed in this book, it will probably always remain one of the most important contributions to the history of the continent of Europe during the later years of the nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth century.

E. R.

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THE UNION OF THE BRITISH PROVINCES. By Hon. Edward Whelan, M.P.P. With an Introduction by D. C. Harvey, M.A. (Oxon.) Garden City Press. 1927. pp. xxiii, 248.

As a patriotic Islander, Professor Harvey had done the state a real service in resuscitating the personality of Edward Whelan, the Irish Catholic immigrant, who, like his more famous countryman, D'Arcy McGee, devoted his powers to the establishment of the Dominion of Canada. Alone amongst the Fathers of Confederation, Whelan had the wit and foresight to put down in black and white what actually occurred in that germinating period of 1864 when the delegates from the Canadas came knocking at the doors of the Province House, Charlottetown, behind which delegates from the Atlantic provinces were discussing maritime union. It was a curious thing to happen, and the whole story has not yet been told. But from this happy meeting sprang the Quebec Resolutions, which formed the basis of the B. N. A. Act. Never was a job of constitution-building done better, or in a shorter time. In eight days, Sept. 10-18, 1864, the Fathers hammered out these basal resolutions, a remarkable feat, which has not yet received its meed of praise.

Whelan was a journalist, and published his commentless compilation at Charlottetown in May, 1865. Professor Harvey has reprinted it, with a useful introduction of his own, a portrait of Whelan, and keyed pictures of the delegates to the Charlottetown conference and the far better known group of the Fathers at Quebec, popularized by the large Diamond Jubilee postage stamp. The proof-reading has not been perfect, and there is no index. Professor Harvey summarizes well. "The value of the little book is three-fold; it compresses into small compass the leading speeches of the leading delegates, speeches which were widely published in the press of the day, thereby creating intense interest; it reveals in purer form the hopes, fears and sentiments of the statesmen who were, for the time being, away from their constituencies, on a high mission and therefore speaking with fewer inhibitions; and it shows these men speaking in the presence of one another, conscious that they were making an appeal, not to their own colony or constituency, but to the whole of Canada; not to the old but to the new Canada, which they were striving to create out of the scattered colonies of North America, colonies hitherto comparative strangers to one another."

It is an indispensable book for the student of our origins.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

EDMUND BURKE. By Bertram Wenman. G. Bell & Sons, Ltd.  
London. 1927.

This excellent study is concerned mainly with the public life of Edmund Burke, and we are left to draw our own conclusions as to his character from the information which M. Wenman provides. Parliament, the American War, the Indian question, the French Revolution take up almost the whole of this volume, just as they occupied almost the whole of Burke's working life.

Like the best of his contemporaries, he was opposed to the mad policy of George the Third on the colonial question. He saw clearly that the issue was not one of legal or even of moral right, but of political expediency.—“Leave America, if she has taxable matter in her, to tax herself. I am not here going into the distinction of rights, not attempting to make their boundaries. I do not enter into these metaphysical distinctions; I hate the very sound of them”.—“Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom, and a great empire and little minds go ill together.” Only by a wise and generous policy of conciliation based upon forbearance could the integrity of the king's dominions be maintained.

Burke enunciated great political principles which are as true to-day as in his own time, and which, in this age of flux and political experimentation, it is well for us to remember. “Parliament is not a *congress* of ambassadors from different and hostile interests; which interests each must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates; but parliament is a *deliberative* assembly of *one* nation, with *one* interest, that of the whole, where not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole.” In his own opinion, his championship of India was his best work; and when it is remembered that it is, in part at least, to him that we owe the doctrine of trusteeship for the wellbeing of backward races, it is hard not to agree with him. Article Twenty-Two of the Covenant of the League of Nations embodies the principle in which he believed and which he so eloquently expressed.

In the main, however, Burke was not the prophet of a new age, but the stalwart champion of one that was passing. Thus the French Revolution appeared to him as a great disaster that would destroy all—“the highways were broken up, the floods were out, and the file afforded no precedent.” The English Revolution of 1688, which we are accustomed to think of as marking only one step in the evolution of parliamentary institutions, to him was the final stage in the perfection of political machinery. Government was essentially an aristocratic art; democracy was a thing in which he could not believe, and which he never understood.

However interesting as a matter for undergraduate speculation the question of Burke's political consistency may be, it is a question of no practical importance to us. What is important, however, is that his speeches have enriched our literature, and his thought has done much to mould our institutions. Although his references to Nova Scotia were far from complimentary,—“Good God, what sums the nursing of

that ill-thrown, hardvisaged and ill-favored brat, Nova Scotia, has cost to this whole nation"—still Nova Scotians, as well as others, will read this book of Mr. Wenman's with advantage and pleasure. It is well written, scholarly, and in producing it the author has made a distinct contribution to the study of later eighteenth century English history.

C. M. MACINNES.

A CANADIAN ART MOVEMENT. The Story of the Group of Seven.  
By F. B. Housser. Toronto. The Macmillan Company of  
Canada. 1926. \$2.50.

This book should have a special interest for all educated Canadians. It is, so far as the present reviewer is aware, the first work devoted to serious art criticism that has appeared in Canada. Painters and sculptors of considerable merit we have had, and a few art collectors not devoid of knowledge and good judgment; but of the intelligent discussion by competent critics of art products and art movements we have had practically nothing at all. It is to the ignorance of the general public that the indifference and lack of support of which our artists rightly complain is largely due. Of good augury, then is it that Mr. Housser as the pioneer in this hitherto neglected territory has taken as his subject a noteworthy group of the younger Canadian artists, writing of them and their work with enthusiasm and understanding. This "group of seven", with the late Tom Thomson who was in some sort their fellow-worker, have undoubtedly gained a recognition of the value of Canadian painting both within and beyond the borders of the Dominion that was previously lacking, and this has been due as much to the genuine merits of their work as to its "Canadianism". Mr. Housser, indeed, emphasizes its purely nativistic origin, and implies perhaps a greater independence of European influence than the facts justify. It is difficult not to see in the spirit and method of most of the group a relation to the modernist movement with which we connect the names of Cezanne, Gauguin and Van Gogh. Several of these Toronto men have travelled and studied in Europe, and must have been more or less consciously affected by what they have seen there. None the less, they are in no sort imitators, and the main source of their inspiration has been a close contact with nature as presented in Canada, especially in its wilder and more rugged aspects. It is possible that some readers of Mr. Housser may receive the impression that the pictures of these men comprise almost all that has been of note in Canadian art. This would be a serious mistake; excellent painting was done in various places before this group was formed, and is being carried on now in centres other than Toronto. Yet no one should grudge them the need of appreciation which they receive in this volume; the encouragement they are given is a hopeful sign that we are beginning to recognize the real value of art as a factor in our national life. This is a thoroughly opportune book.

E. R.

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO CANADIAN CURRENCY, EXCHANGE AND FINANCE DURING THE FRENCH PERIOD. Selected and edited by Adam Shortt. Two vols. Ottawa. The King's Printer. 1925.

These two volumes contain an extensive selection of documents relating to the circulating medium of Canada under the French régime. The documents comprise communications passing between the Home Government and its colonial agents, ordinances and memoranda of the colonial officials, occasional memorials from colonial merchants, etc. They relate to such subjects as the minting and value of coins to circulate in the colony, issue and withdrawal of card money (which occasioned voluminous correspondence), colonial expenditures, bills of exchange, counterfeiting. Beyond the Introduction by Dr. Adam Shortt and some fairly extended footnotes, there is no attempt at analysis or interpretation of the documents.

The collection will be indispensable in future to the student of the early economic history of Canada. We may hope that, with the help of this and similar collections in course of preparation, some writer will some day present to the Canadian public a readable and reliable account of the economic development of their country.

The documents are published in French and English.

W. RUSSELL MAXWELL.

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SUPERPERSONALISM: THE OUTER CONSCIOUSNESS A BIOLOGICAL ENTITY. Reflections on the Independence of Instinct and its Characteristics in Evolution. By W. D. Lighthall, LL.D. Witness Press, Montreal. 1926.

The theories propounded by Dr. Lighthall in this book are singularly bold and original; and though in the present writer's opinion they are by no means fully established by the author, they are certainly deserving of the attention of serious students of philosophy. His central thought is that, starting from a study of the implications of the series of phenomena which we know as instincts, we are led on logically to accept as valid the concept of a world-consciousness on which all individual consciousnesses are dependent and of which they form part; this world consciousness possessing personality, or rather being superpersonal, and its activity constituting the evolutionary process. Such activity is purposeful, and its aim is the production of the greatest possible amount of happiness. This "Outer Consciousness" is distinguished from what appears to us as merely individual consciousness; but in fact a "person" is really a colony of consciousnesses, and in turn is but one portion of the all pervading super-personality. It is impossible in the limits of a short book-notice to give a full resumé of this work, or adequately to criticize its thesis. While the author is justified in differentiating his theory from any propounded by

other philosophical writers, yet there are interesting resemblances which will suggest themselves to those familiar with the history of speculative thought. Von Hartmann's treatment of the subject of instinct, the most valuable and suggestive part of his *Philosophy of the Unconscious*, is closely in accord with that given in the present work. Some analogy might be found also between the supreme consciousness as universal and determining force and Spinoza's concept of *natura naturans*. The student of Goethe can hardly fail to note the likeness of the super-person who finds self-expression in the whole evolutionary process to the Earth Spirit called up by Faust. The resemblances to, and differences from, Schopenhauer's system are fully expounded by Dr. Lighthall. A word of remonstrance may be permitted against the title the author gives the "Outer Consciousness",—the "Hyperpsych." Such nomenclature does not seem to support Milton's claim that "Divine Philosophy" is "not harsh nor crabbed."

E. R.

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**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH SCALIGER**, with autobiographical selections from his letters, his testament and the funeral orations by Daniel Heinsius and Dominicus Baudius. Translated into English for the first time with introduction and notes, by George W. Robinson, Secretary of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Cambridge. Harvard University Press. 1927.

Mr. Robinson has done his work well. The Autobiography of Scaliger tells nothing of his life after he went to Leyden in 1594, and Mr. Robinson has added a judicious selection from his letters. These, together with his somewhat detailed will—the will is more than twice as long as the autobiography which, indeed, occupies only five pages—give a good picture of Scaliger, while the orations of Heinsius and Baudius testify to the esteem in which he was held by his students and colleagues. It is a mere impertinence to praise Scaliger; the most that the scholar can do is to attempt to understand him, and Mr. Robinson's work will make this task easier for the busy student of to-day. Incidentally, if the busy student of to-day is discouraged by the distracting vanities that infest academic life, he would do well to ponder these remarks of Scaliger: "If, as we are well aware, our work on these authors has not satisfied learned readers, my excuse is the whole desultory tenor of my life, and the lack of that leisure which is the chief nutriment of studies. From the year 1563, when I became the companion of the noble Louis de Chastaigner de la Roche Pozay, even to this day, I recall no time that I have had free from travel or from anxiety. The malevolent may know that I have always lacked the leisure for study which they have had in superabundance for slander." Scaliger had enemies; and the oration of Baudius contains one or two fine specimens of the rhetoric of abuse when he touches upon Scioppius and the Scaliger Hypobolimaeus.

Mr. Robinson's work shows throughout his knowledge of Scaliger, and his affection for him; only a man who knows his subject dare say as he does: "Whether Joseph Scaliger should be reckoned the greatest scholar of all time, or should share the palm with Aristotle, is perhaps an open question; of his primacy among the scholars of modern times there can be no doubt." And his sympathies appear in such a phrase as "Scioppius's outrageous Scaliger Hypobolimaeus."

Scaliger at Leyden must seem to most scholars at the summit of human felicity. He had no routine duties, had not even to lecture. But he says, "I have a house, I lack lodgings. I have a library, I use the books of others. I am of noble family, it is doubted and contradicted. I have devoted myself to letters, I am an utter ignoramus." The last item we all sometimes feel constrained to confess with him. But he was not wholly unhappy. "Yet I have no reason to abandon this honorable leisure which I enjoy." But a little later, "When it rained, the whole house dripped like a leaky pot." He had sometimes a quaint humour: "Last evening our Mylius informed me that he had learned from your letter that I was dead at Prague. I do not suppose, my dear Welser, that it makes any great difference to me whether I am dead somewhere else, so long as I am alive here." But the reader will find these and many other things for himself.

The book contains four plates, two good portraits of Scaliger, his monument at Leyden, and a facsimile of his handwriting.

E. W. NICHOLS.

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THE LAND OF SINGING WATERS. By A. M. Stephen. J. M. Dent & Co., Ltd. London and Toronto. 1927.

There is no lack of variety in the contents of this volume of verse. Mr. Stephen has experimented with the rondeau, the rondel, the ballade and the sonnet; in the last form is included some of his best work. We are given poems on classical, historical, and religious subjects; while much of his verse, both narrative and descriptive, is inspired by the life and the scenery of British Columbia. From that he takes the pleasing title of his book. Some of this verse shows facility rather than strength, and a somewhat severe pruning would have been favourable to the author's reputation; but a poet has a right to be judged by the best that he offers, and Mr. Stephen at his best shows genuine imaginative power and a keen sensitiveness to both natural and spiritual beauty. There is great charm of language in such poems as "Winter Winds", "Par Nobile Fratrum" and "The Troubadours"; while the stories and ballads that make up most of the second part of the volume have directness and virility. As a specimen of his work in the sonnet may be quoted "The Warrior":

Steel rings on steel; the clanging chariots roll  
 In golden dust down highways of romance.  
 The trumpets stir red lightnings in the soul,  
 On wings of dream the pennons glint and dance.  
 Here a fair kingdom reels into the dark,  
 And there a rising crown gleams like a star.  
 Above the battle-clouds, our eyes may mark

Peace hovering on wide waiting wings afar.  
 Great is the warrior, but his pride is most  
 When o'er his mind he wields the master's sway  
 And binds Self captive to the wheels of Life.  
 And he, whose strong hand guides the warring host,  
 Knows Love, a twin-edged sword to save or slay  
 So that the spirit conquer in the strife.

E. R.

SELECTED POEMS OF ROBERT BROWNING. Edited with Introduction.  
 By George Herbert Clarke, M.A., D. Litt., Professor of  
 English in Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. Houghton  
 Mifflin Co. The Riverside Press, Cambridge.

We have here probably the best collection of Browning's shorter poems that has yet appeared. Though evidently intended primarily for the use of college students, this well-edited, well-printed and compact little book should be welcomed by all lovers of poetry. The somewhat hysterical enthusiasm for Browning of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, a reaction from the neglect of the earlier generation of readers and critics, has ebbed. Browning Societies have had their day and ceased to be, but the poet's place among the great writers of England is secure. We no longer approach his work as though it constituted a series of ingenious puzzles which only the learned might solve; we recognize that, like all great poetry, it is something to be freely enjoyed for its inherent beauty and truth. So much of Browning's best verse is found in his shorter pieces that such a full and judicious selection as this will suffice to familiarize the young student with the poet's characteristics in thought and style. In his excellent Introduction Dr. Clarke combines a biographical sketch with a critical appreciation of Browning's work.

E. R.

COLLECTED SHORTER POEMS. By W. King Baker. George  
 Routledge and Sons, Ltd. London.

It is not easy to find matter for praise in this volume of verse. The sentiments expressed are indeed often excellent, and the writer possesses fluency and facility; but the ideas the poems convey seldom rise above the commonplace, and there are frequent flaws in the versification. The best of the poems are those that are inspired by religious feeling. In these Mr. Baker writes with an ardour and sincerity that are not unattractive.

E. R.

FORESTS AND SEA POWER. The Timber Problem of the Royal  
 Navy 1652-1862. By R. G. Albion. Cambridge. Harvard  
 University Press. 1926. Pp. xii, 485.

This is a good example of what is possible in a scholarly treatise when sound scholarship and thorough research are combined with



insight into human nature and a gift of expression. Dr. Albion's book will compare favourably with any other in the quality and extent of research which provides its foundation. But the vivid or picturesque phrase, sometimes revealing a good-natured cynicism, redeems his work from the dull level of laborious compendiums which reek of the musty atmosphere of the library stack, and are uninspired by any appreciation of the meaning in terms of human life of the things with which they deal. Thus we read, "At times, the need of beer or seamen would seriously impair the fighting strength": or again, *apropos* of the loss of a cargo of masts in the foundering of the frigate "Elias", at a time of serious shortage, "The frigate had foundered on her return, with most of her crew and all of her masts. The loss of the latter was felt keenly." Very rarely there is a lapse—not unwelcome—into a picturesque American phrase, perhaps of humble origin, such as the one when he differs from a fellow historian and remarks, "Gardiner laughs this off".

These things, perhaps, are trifles. It is of greater importance, at all events, that Dr. Albion presents his subject as having a vital relationship to the life of the time. His book is not so much a study of masts as of men; not sea power, but seamen. "The actions of a Swedish king, for instance, helped to colonize the coast of Maine; the fact that fir is of superior quality in northern latitudes was partly responsible for an important development in international law; Napoleon's Berlin and Milan decrees led to the instruction of African savages in the art of lumbering; and partly because many of the members of parliament owned oak on their estates, Nelson was crippled in his blockade of Toulon". Here is the secret which can give the breath of life to any subject. Would that more scholars grasped its significance!

W. RUSSELL MAXWELL.