

circulated and widely read in the United States. "Truth About Germany" was published in August or early September under the auspices of a committee of thirty-four prominent leaders of industry, education and finance in Germany, whose names, along with those of the eleven distinguished editors, appear on the first page. In its original form it carried no imprint of publisher or place of publication or price, but a reprint has since been put upon the market by "The Fatherland."

Written in English, this is explicitly an address to the American people. With a plea for their continued sympathy, friendship and esteem, it begins and ends. It contains a sketch of the diplomacy preceding the war, an arraignment of Russian aggression and English perfidy, a picture of Germany's united people defending their independence with a perfectly organized and loyal army, and in the chapter entitled "Lies About Germany" a calendar of European events from July 26 to August 2, which is startlingly different from the contemporary American newspaper reports and which the London Nation assails as untrue in several respects.

The most unsatisfactory portion of the monograph from the neutral reader's point of view—if by this time there are any ex-officio neutrals in the world—is the brief explanation of Germany's violation of the neutrality of Belgium. The necessity for self-defense is asserted but not substantiated; military advantage is offered as a moral argument.

But whatever its defects, the essay is important because of its guarantors, if for no other reason; it is brief; it is on the whole well-written and effective, and it should be read by all Americans who mean to be fair and to hear both sides in this tremendous and passionate debate.



The Real "Truth About Germany." By Douglas Sladen. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. 1914. Price, \$1 net.

An English author has written an answer to the German "Truth." He reprints the German monograph and replies to it paragraph by paragraph, adding to his own arguments extracts from a few speeches and public documents. Mr. Sladen's book is worth reading, certainly in many respects convincing; but one can not avoid regret over his plan of procedure. The German argument was calculated to make a certain definite impression as a whole. To answer it piecemeal, though the answer be, and perhaps is, a complete refutation, is to fail of final rhetorical effect. To reply to everything, little and big, important and trivial, is to lose emphasis and readers. The Germans, right or wrong, lead here, as usual, in efficiency. "They know how to pack their goods

for the foreign trade," as our Consular keep reminding us.

But Mr. Sladen's book is much too valuable to dismiss with regret for what it is not. To say nothing of his own many satisfactory arguments, he has gathered into the book much useful and easily mislaid contemporary material from Ministerial speeches, from newspapers and documents—Austria's whole ultimatum, for example, paralleled with Servia's full reply, or the second report of the Belgian Commission of Inquiry, or the inimitable Lloyd George on the Prussian Junker. Unfortunately the book is not indexed and none of these insertions is mentioned in the table of contents. It is to be hoped that a second edition will remedy these defects in what should be a book both to read and to keep on the war reference shelf.



One American's Opinion of the European War. By Frank W. Whitridge. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. 1914. Price, 50 cents, net.

The littlest book that has so far come to the war table deals the doughtiest blows to Prussian militarism, the seducer of Germany. Mr. Whitridge must express exactly the feelings of many fellow Americans. For they, too, in youth spent some of their "happiest years" in Germany; they also found its people "peaceable, simple and friendly"—"all and more than all that General Bernhardt now says they ought not to be," as the author puts it; they themselves marveled at the Germans' "knowledge, industry and economy" and with Mr. Whitridge now "think of the Fatherland as they would think of an old friend who had gone out of his mind," believing "the Germans to be crazed by militarism and the contemplation of their own greatness and power." The chapters on Germany's Self-Deception and German "Culture" are very brief and forceful discussions of Germany's diplomatic "blunders" preceding the war and of "the wanton and senseless campaign of destruction" in Belgium. The whole swift-running argument is that of a high-minded *American*.

He is a barbarian, says Chesterton, who can not see the mind of the other man. Assuredly, then, Germany has the rest of the world in training for civilization. All mankind is trying to see into the Prussian mind. If only the world and Germany could exchange views without shrapnel!

A. L. G.

PERIODICALS

The American Magazine.

In the Interpreters' House the December issue of the American Magazine offers a suggestion very similar to one brought forward by William James in

the February, 1910, issue of International Conciliation. James proposed a moral equivalent of war in an army enlisted and trained, not to kill, but to do useful work. The "Philosopher" of the American Magazine suggests, as James did, the use of the army against the natural enemies of man. But the "Philosopher" goes further and presents the idea in a more attractive form. He specifies some of the enemies whom he would fight, such as flies, rats, mosquitoes and other pests. He further calls attention to other work to which such an army might be put, carrying on of irrigation work, reforestation, developing water power, etc. He would have girls enlisted as well as boys to do the lighter work. He improves considerably on James' suggestion in explaining how to get possession of the land needed for such an enterprise. He would "confiscate it under military necessity," not through condemnation proceedings but through taxation. "Exempt all other forms of property," he says, "and clap every red cent of taxation on land values. Then everyone who held unused land would either use it or dump it, and we would have all the land we need." There is so much about the suggestion that is admirable that its one objectionable feature, by no means essential to its practical application, need not be largely dwelt upon. He would have this army recruited through compulsory conscription. Let voluntary enlistment be substituted and all serious objections would seem to be overcome. There is much other thought-producing matter in this issue, such as The Sandwich Man, by Nina Wilcox Putnam and The Golden Rule in Business by Ida M. Tarbell.

S. D.

Hostess (at party): "Does your mother allow you to have two pieces of pie when you are at home, Willie?"

Willie (who has asked for a second piece): "No, ma'am."

"Well, do you think she'd like you to have two pieces here?"

"Oh," confidently, "she wouldn't care. This isn't her pie!"—Louisville Times.



A farmer in great need of extra hands at haying time finally asked Bill Smith, who was accounted the town fool, if he would help him out.

"Wha'll ye pay?" asked Bill.

"I'll pay what you're worth," answered the farmer.

Bill scratched his head a minute, then announced decisively:

"I'll be durned if I'll work for that!"—Sacred Heart Review.



"Wise men make epigrams and fools quote them," observed the tall man.

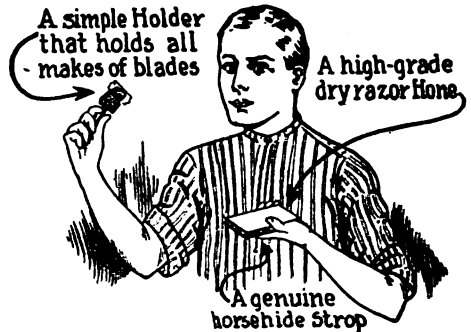
"That's fine!" answered the short man, appreciatively. "By the way, who was the author of that one?"—Dallas News.



The Family Man—"The cost of everything is increasing at a terrible rate."

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