

The most interesting chapters to us are numbers vii, ix and x, on Individualism and State-ism, the Modern English Spirit, England's Spirit in Literature, in which last the author is on his own ground. These contain very able, striking and balanced, though brief analyses of the attitudes of Carlyle, J. S. Mill and Matthew Arnold and George Meredith towards French and German thought and contemporary strivings in the democratic line. M. Cestre recognizes that Carlyle had no confidence in democracy (p. 164), and that his admiration for a strong and efficient authority prevented him from discerning the qualities of cupidity, duplicity and cynicism of Frederick II and other kings of Prussia. Carlyle believed that between the wisdom of Goethe and the "enlightened" despotism of the masters of Prussia, including Bismarck, there was compatibility and the possibility of intimate and beneficial alliance. But we know that Goethe himself feared the "Prussian claws," and never dreamed that German thought was to become the dual instrument of state-ism and militaristic ambition.

M. Cestre thinks that there is an essential incompatibility between English and German thought, and comments lucidly on British radicals with leanings to Individualism cultivating German friendship almost to the undoing of their own country (p. 194). The attitude of England in the war is, he holds (1916), a splendid tribute to its respect for individual character. Contemporary England has outrun Carlyle, whose moral fanaticism coloured his political doctrine (p. 276), who understood only a few of the elements of the modern spirit, and with whom France found little favour because her qualities are of an intellectual and artistic order. England, he considers, let us hope correctly, has become more rationalistic, an evolution which draws her nearer to France. Towards this, the work of Matthew Arnold was especially helpful, because he both understood the qualities of the French mind and did much to clear the intellectual horizon of his own country (chapter x).

A table setting forth the contents of the chapters and an index of four pages add to the value of this excellent volume, any defects in the earlier chapters of which would be mainly attributable to their compression and brevity.

W. H.