

CURRENT COMMENT

A QUESTION OF ART.

A discussion is going on in England over the use of German articles, the reading of German literature, the production of German plays, the admission of German manufactures, the reception of German people and the recognition of the German nation. There are still many whose personal sufferings, or whose patriotic favor will not permit them to have anything to do with anything German, now, or for a long period to come, if ever. Many are perplexed as to how long the boycott should remain. Others accept the peace declaration by the nation as an official end of all hostilities, though not necessarily the beginning of former cordiality. There are Irish people, similarly moved to disclaim their nationality on account of the inhuman things that are being done. But shall we cease to sing Moore's melodies or to read Charles Leold because Satan has moved from Germany to Ireland? The debate in England has been stimulated over the playing in Westminster Abbey of a composition by Max Reger, the German who hoped that the zeppelins would destroy the abbey. The organist played the piece at a concert in aid of the fund for the preservation and restoration of the Abbey. Max Reger is dead, but his good work survives in spite of his lower mind and its evil thoughts. Those who object to listen to German music became its composer or the Kaiser was a scoundrel, more or less, are in the same class as those who refuse to sing the hymn "Nearer, My God, to Thee!" because its author was a Unitarian; or the hymn "Lead, Kindly Light," because its writer afterwards joined the Roman Catholic church. Great works of art and literature rise far above the petty limitations we set for our personal and national prejudices, and it is the merit and glory of art that it does lift us into serene and loftier regions than those in which our temporal and mortal antipathies survive. It was the special mark of the best in the Germans during the war that they could not recognize the nobler appeals of art, and the same debasement characterizes the acts by which Bolshevism and some other kindred tendencies seek to perpetuate themselves.

DEATH STRUGGLE IN PLANTS.

Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose has so frequently proven himself a magician in dealing with the mysteries of nature that no surprise need be felt at another of his discoveries in which he demonstrated the exact moment when death occurred in plants. He did this in two ways; one by a delicate instrument called a monograph, by which when it was attached to the plant the slightest movements could be registered by a spot of light. This indicated a spasm or death-throes at the moment when the plant ceased to live, at which life could no longer be prolonged in it. The galvanometer was also used for the same purpose and the results were similar, showing that the electrical response was vigorous when life was full and strong, and correspondingly weak as life failed. The resisting power was shown to lessen under repeated attacks as in the case in animal life. A plant which normally died at a certain temperature, died at a lower temperature after having been subjected to several exhausting strains. Seedlings succumbed more rapidly than full-grown plants. Anesthetics were also applied and exactly similar results were indicated as in the case of animal life, the monograph showing the action of the anesthetic, either being used on a mimosa, at a certain stage, and later the real death-spasm occurring. All these experiments deal with the phenomena of life, but what life itself is, is a secret as profound as war. No man of science can say what is life, nor what is heat or fire, or electricity, or gravity, or chemical action or any of the forces with which we are familiar only through their action on our plane of existence. We may afford these forces channels for their manifestation, and we can invite their presence, and they are amazingly re-

sponsive and obedient to suitable conditions, but what they are we can no more say than we can say what space and duration and motion are, or consciousness itself.

A WORLD REVOLUTION PLANNED.

Lenine's view that the Russian revolution is not an end in itself but is to be regarded as the first step towards world revolution should not be passed over lightly. It is astonishing what few determined men relying on their own nerve and the indifference of the mass of men can do. Witness Ireland, in which a majority of the population are opposed to murder and assassination but will not interfere to stop what they disapprove. The rest of the world is no better organized on an average than Ireland, and if Lenine can extend his agencies, mere apathy would be enough to give him domination. Lenine declares that Britain and France must be attacked through their colonies and dependencies. "As regards France," he explains, "by judicious propaganda in Northern Africa, and in the case of Great Britain by similar propaganda in India." The French have already discovered the symptoms in Northern Africa. Ghandi is carrying on the work of sedition in India. There is no doubt of what is afoot in Ireland. At any moment all these conditions may become acute. In the absence of an international tribunal with an army to enforce its decrees it is impossible to say what kind of situation may not develop at any moment and become acute. Lenine expects to "smash the peace of Versailles and replace the rule of the Entente Powers by the rule of the proletariat throughout the world." The rule of the proletariat means the rule by brute force, and with the absence of education, experience, religion or morals. The first thing done is to suppress all free speech, free thought, free printing as treasonable to the republic. This is brought about by shooting down or otherwise disposing of the cultured and educated classes, the intelligentsia, and you, dear reader, and we who write would be among the first to go.

THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND.

Since the publication of the private letter of Admiral Van Scheer to the Kaiser written after the battle of Jutland, there has been a complete re-examination of all the evidence and details of that action with the result that the old verdict has been reaffirmed. Whatever may have been the verdict rendered on special aspects of this last great naval battle the Germans were so completely out-rated that they never showed fight again but kept their ships in harbor, and completely surrendered at the close of the war. If this victory Germany history may boast of. Criticism has been chiefly levelled at Admiral Jellicoe for not having followed up his advantage, and continuing a night pursuit utterly routed or destroyed the enemy. Jellicoe, however, played safe. Having put the enemy to flight he adopted Dayberry's tactics and thanked God he was rid of a knave. The admiralty has hastened the publication of Jellicoe's report since Van Scheer's letter appeared, and there are one or two new points, particularly the fact that the essential message from a scout boat announcing the direction of the retiring German fleet was lost in the confusion of wireless messages. The low visibility, the strength of the enemy's torpedo fleet and the proximity of the enemy mine field were sufficient reasons to justify a cautious course. There are several admissions which indicate that as usual the enemy was underestimated. His armoring was more efficient, his speed was much above anticipation, his gunfire was excellent and accurate, and his manoeuvres seamanship. But he dared not face the full force of the British navy and making the best of the confusion following the loss of the Queen Mary, the Marlborough and other vessels, he escaped to his haven whence he sailed not forth again except to surrender.

WORK FOR RAINMAKERS.

Insufficient rain accounts for the absence of crops in nearly a third of the country.



THE ROUND TABLE

"WHERE WE MAKE FRIENDS OF BOOKS."

"The Little House," Comparison with Booth Tarkington's "Monsieur Beaucaire" is at once suggested by the simple grace of "The Little House," this romance of London by Coningsby Dawson. The story has a charm as elusive as the appealing quality that won so many followers for Maude Adams. It is as endearing as "Roaming in the Gloom" or "Comin' Through the Rye." Only poetic thought could endow a house with a personality so warmly human as to permit an author to let walls and stairways tell his story for him in the first person without consciousness of the identity of the narrator intruding upon the reader. And that is what Mr. Dawson has accomplished without once breaking the spell. Great, gray London most imperial of cities, furnishes the background for this simple love story. It is a two-century-old house that spins the thread of romance with all the benignity that has come to it from generations of being called "home" by charming people. And what a picture the author conjures up through the mouthpiece of this old house! Mr. Dawson has "embalmed in ink" the emotional atmosphere that shrouded that city during the raids of the Huns. The Little House pretended to like the excitement. But he couldn't deceive himself; he was delighted when "the little lady who needed to be loved but didn't know it" came with her two children seeking shelter within his walls. Not far behind her came an American officer, who was having in this raid his first remote taste of warfare. They spend an hour together in the Little House, the little lady mothering the soldier with words because his smile seemed to say "Everybody has always loved and trusted me," and because his pres-

ence stanch the ebb of her own courage. As soon as the danger is past they part without learning each other's identity, without even saying good-bye, he to go to France, she to carry on her pathetic battle against loneliness and sorrow for the young husband who would never come back. A year later, searching for a home for herself and her children, stumbling upon the Little House again and is glad to find the To Let sign still out. Somehow we know that the man whom she sometimes thinks of simply as "the American officer" will come back. And come back he does, with one empty sleeve tucked into the side pocket of his tunic. He is "the wounded officer who needed rest," and when he was in the little lady's company he felt the way a ship might feel when the winds had ceased to buffet and it lay still on a level keel in a sheltered harbor.

Miss Stella Langdale's illustrations are happy in tune with the delicate spirit of the story. The book is attractively printed on good paper and is easily read type. "Mr. Editing Sees It Through" no longer stands by itself as the great exponent of the philosophy of the war. Henceforth, it must share this position with Mr. Beverley Baxter's "The Parts Men Play," says the Standard commenting on the latest book of a young, but rising Canadian novelist. The book, which is favorably reviewed by other London papers, seems to have excited much interest in literary London. It is published in Canada by McClelland & Stewart. "The Little House" by Coningsby Dawson is also published by McClelland & Stewart.

LIGHT IN THE POULTRY HOUSE

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS' NOTE.

After repeated experiments by the Experimental Stations and others, one can safely say that artificial light in the poultry house is an advantage, in that it transfers the period of high production from the spring months to winter months. Though lights may not be the means of increasing yearly egg yields it produces eggs when eggs are high in price.

Reasons Why Light Helps.

Light gives the birds the amount of daylight they are used to having during the time of high production or in the spring months. In Canada, especially, the winter days are extremely short and the hen's day even more so, for she goes to roost as soon as it begins to grow dusk, and the trouble is that the night is so long that she is not able to take enough feed to do her until morning. The value of the light is simply to increase her daylight so that she can have more time to eat and less time necessary for sleep. It lengthens the hen's day and makes it more in keeping with summer conditions.

Best Time to Give the Light.

There is ready no best time when the light should be turned on. It is all a matter of convenience. Some people prefer to turn on the light from four to six in the morning and let the birds go to roost when they see fit in the evening. They claim that this is more natural in that the birds get up as soon as the light comes and start scratching. They go to roost at the usual time or for an hour or two in the morning and an hour or two in the evening, while some find it more convenient to turn the light on in the afternoon before dark comes and then turn it off about nine or ten o'clock at night.

As long as the day is lengthened from twelve to fourteen hours it is immaterial just what method is

adopted so long as the same method is followed throughout the whole season. Care however, must be taken so that after the lights are turned on in the evenings the birds will get to roost before the lights are turned out. To insure this some use dimmers. Others flash the lights while some claim that it is not necessary, that the birds will soon get into the habit of knowing just when to take the roost.

On the electric light being turned on at night, there is the difficulty that the birds sometimes go to roost early even though the light is on. If this is found to be the case it will be well to give some special feed in the evening and keep them scratching, or allow the birds to go to the roost at the natural time in the afternoon, and then after supper turn on the light and give them their evening feed. At that time they are hungry, they get off the roost and spend an hour or two scratching to get their evening feed. The exact time is not so important so long as judgment and good management are used.

Kind of Birds Helped.

Since the use of electric light is valuable only in matured early pullets that have started to lay say in October or November. Under natural conditions these will give a good egg yield, and it is a question as to whether light in their case is an advantage, but for late and immature pullets and for older hens, light is an advantage. It will hasten the development of the later pullets, bring them into egg production much earlier, and will some times be the means of making late birds give a profit when otherwise there would be none. The same is true of hens that have been laying fairly well during the summer and under natural conditions will rest for most of the early winter months. Our experience has also been that for the late hatched

chicks electric light has assisted in the development. In a bunch of 200 White Leghorns hatched on the 15th of September, electric lighted brooders were used which gave light all night long and these pullets were laying by the 15th of January.

Kind of Lights to Use.

As a rule, a 60-watt Tungsten will give sufficient light for an ordinary pen of twenty-five birds. Shades to the light are not an advantage, but the light should be placed where the most illuminable, a number of barn lanterns with reflectors have been hung on the wall with fair success. Other systems of illumination may be used but danger of fire must be taken into consideration. Automatic clocks for turning on and off the lights are an advantage in that it is then done without any extra attention. Dimmers are an advantage if the light is used in the evening, but if the manager will watch carefully he can by flashing his light once or twice soon train the birds to take to the roost.

A Few Results.

At the Experimental Farm electric lights have been tested for several years and the general results are as indicated above. During the six winter months, November to April lights were the means of reducing the cost of feed for each dozen of eggs from 32.1 to 25.5 cents, but the main difference was shown in the profit because of the extra price received for the eggs during the early winter or with the light, for in four pens, two with light and two without light a balance over cost of feed and cost of light in the illuminated pens was \$77.64 against a balance over cost of feed in the dark pens of \$58.95.

MARKETS AT A GLANCE.

The outstanding feature this week is the reduction made in the price of building papers and roofings. The lower quotations on tarred felt and roofings have been anticipated as prices of felt rags have been declining for some time, states Hardware and Metal.

Other declines include cotton goods, wash cords, twines, etc., fuel oils, and some grades of lubricating oils, valves, unions, solders and lead products.

Bar iron and steel are quoted at a slight reduction, and lower prices are asked for galvanized sheets. Ingot metals have reached lower levels and continue weak.

There is a quieter feeling, but the holiday trade is reported good and confidence in the outlook for next season seems general.

The removal of the luxury tax is regarded with satisfaction by jobbers and merchants, and though much of the holiday business had been done before the change was announced, it is expected that trade will be stimulated by the withdrawal of the tax.

TELL-TALE FACES.

"Nature seems to decide in advance, by face and gesture, what many people are best fitted for." That is the theory of Dr. Henry Cheliew, who holds that by studying the faces of children, parents and teachers may obtain valuable guidance as to their future careers. The following list is a brief summary of some of his deductions: Triangular full face—Essentially a mental type. Unromantic, strenuous, eats little; thinks much. Feels little, sleeps little. Usually makes good accountant or engineer. Round full face—Essentially a vital type. Sentimental, easy-going; sleeps and eats all the time; does little work. Makes usually a good mathematician. Pointed profile (such as the Chamberlain family)—Uncompromising, inclined to procrastination. Convex Profile (such as Horatio Bottomley)—Egotistic, self-reliant. Convex features (of the type usually known as "pugnacious")—Alert, keen, practical, penetrative, impatient. Concave features—Mild, reflective, patient. Receding forehead—Quick thinking. Advancing forehead (such as that of Sir Oliver Lodge)—Great capacity for deep thought, but never likely to keep pace with people whose foreheads slope back.

The humming top, in which boys do light today, were toys in the time of Homer and Plato.