

The most astonishing feature of the book, however, is the portrait traced of Napoleon, who is represented as mentally and physically diseased, an epileptic who spends his time in endless railings against fate and recriminations against his staff. If Napoleon had indulged in as much futile conversation as he is credited with in this book he would certainly have accomplished very little. As for his physique, this is the author's description of him:—

Assuredly, he told himself, looking at the reflection in the glass, there was little in that stumpy figure, those legs that waddled under the shaking fat, that huge head set low on the powerful shoulders, and that dwarf-like enormity of chest—there was little in all this to attract the candid eyes of a young girl. (p. 268.)

We have read many descriptions of Napoleon, but none, in truth, like this one.

L. M. K.

FRANCE, ENGLAND, AND EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY, 1215-1915.

*By Charles Cestre, translated from the French by Leslie M. Turner.
G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1918. pp. 350. Price,
\$2.50 net.*

This is the translation of a work which appeared in 1916 under the title of "L'Angleterre et la Guerre," and which has been crowned by the French Academy of Political and Moral Sciences. The author, who has both lived and studied in England and the United States, being a graduate of the University of Harvard and now Professor of English at the University of Bordeaux, is already well known by his work "La Révolution Française et les Poètes Anglais." The translated form of his present work, of which we shall say nothing more than it seems generally to be exact and capable and to improve after the first chapter, appears to have been a long time on the way, since it was not given to the public until the year following the translator's note, which bears the date January, 1917. Since the volume was written, many things have occurred to render some of its details and its generous attitude towards Russia (chap. I.) obsolete. On the other hand, the author's view that the indissoluble union of spiritual forces in France and England "exemplifies values that are equally illustrative of America's true traditions, and as I hope, prophetic of her future policy" (preface) has received the most brilliant confirmation.

Obviously M. Cestre is writing for a French public, whom he considers to be insufficiently acquainted with Great Britain's contribution to democracy and liberal civilization. His book is a development of modern democracy in a compendious form, which shows it up more strongly against a background of forces that are opposed to and would overwhelm it. Much in it will hardly be new to English readers, but what is familiar is handled with masterly conciseness, lucidity and penetration (the best French qualities) so as to arrest attention and provide fresh stimulus.