

to formulate fresh and living answers to the greatest problems of life, will find a constituency.

The War is ended. Peace has come. A persisting question is, "Is war ended; has the spirit of peace taken permanent hold of the nations?" If it has, then war is ended. If it has not, there will be wars again, and wars more dreadful and devastating than the gigantic struggle in which half the world was engaged. Professor Alexander W. Crawford's book, **Germany's Moral Downfall** (The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati, 217 pages, \$1.00 net), is intended to throw light on the problem. His object is "to try to understand the dark mind and the immoral soul of Germany, and to offer an explanation of her downfall." That explanation is, that "a materialistic philosophy of life and of the world has eaten out the moral life of the German people." Germany's denial of morality and worship of brute force,—in other words, Germany's materialism, is answerable, according to the author, for Germany's projection of the War, and the execrable methods followed by her in its prosecution. The changes in Germany from the older and freer national life to subjection to Prussian tyranny and lust of conquest, and the descent of German thought from the idealistic philosophy represented by such great teachers as Immanuel Kant, to materialism and the German kultur,—a "cult of force," or "force worship," are described in detail. That Germany, even though crushed, has not yet had her eyes opened to the false course she has been pursuing, is, in the author's belief, ground for grave apprehension; and, in addition, the fear that this same materialism is doing, and may continue to do, its deadly work among the conquering nations. The conclusion he reaches, and which is worthy of gravest consideration in these after-the-war days, is that "if the world is to be spared a repetition of this cataclysm and to be permitted to work out the peaceable pursuits of righteousness, it is indispensable that systems of thought and views of the world that deny morality shall not be allowed in the education of our youth. A system of ethics that denies morality, or explains it in terms of might or materialism, a religion that is nothing but a worship of power or force, and denies the existence of spirit, can result in nothing but a repeated disaster."

October is often the best time to begin preparing for July. This fact has been brought forcibly to our attention by the receipt from the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, of three beautifully printed manuals of about 140 pages each, and selling each at 50c., the first, **Twenty-Nine Bible Lessons for the Vacation Bible School**, by Lola M.

Striklen, Archibald McClure and Gerrit Verkuyl; the second, **The Life of Jesus, and How We are to Live** (Thirty lessons for the Daily Vacation Bible School), by Bertram G. Jackson; the third, **A Manual for the Kindergarten** (also for the Daily Vacation Bible School) by Florence H. Towne.

The **Twenty-Nine Bible Lessons** is a revision of a scheme of Lessons prepared some years ago and proved good by use. They have now been reorganized and rewritten in the light of experience. The lessons are intended for children of from eight to ten years of age, the department above the kindergarten and below the Junior. The lessons are capably done. Even the reading of them to the class by the teacher would be effective, whilst aid towards the more thorough teaching of the material, under such headings as Aim, Memory Text, Scripture, Blackboard Training, Illustration, is prefixed to each lesson.

The manual entitled, **The Life of Jesus, and How We are to Live**, is meant for teachers of children older than those contemplated in the first mentioned manual, boys and girls who are learning to do some thinking for themselves. The Lessons will set the teachers thinking, as well as the children. They are intended to build up in the minds of the children the great personality, Jesus, and to lead them to reproduce that personality in their own lives.

The third little volume is made up of two Parts:—I. General Helps and Hints for the Kindergarten Teacher in the Vacation Bible School, which contains most valuable hints and directions as to how this special form of kindergarten work should be conducted; and II. Some Bible Stories for use in the work, shaped so as to be effectively communicated to little minds. The author writes out of successful experience in actual work with Polish and Italian children in a typical immigrant community, which gives a special value to her directions and her way of storytelling.

From Father to Son, by Mary S. Watts (Macmillan Company of Canada, 310 pages, \$1.75), is a timely work, coming as it does in these days when "profiteering" is a word so much in the mouths of all. It is a story of the rejection by the son of his father's wealth, the foundations of which were acquired by his grandfather's profiteering during the Civil War. We follow this high-minded adventurer in his efforts towards self-respecting independence to gain which he leaves home practically penniless and makes a career for himself in dramatic literature. The War breaks in upon his career and with it comes love and love's prize. A crowd of characters move along with the hero. The clean, honest atmosphere of the book is good. Its language is dignified.