



French first line trenches plowed by German shells. The forest in this section was battered to fragments.

few of the trees possessing the most soothing properties, such as those of the magnificent coniferous family: the maritime pine, the pine of Italy, the common fir, which are found in all the forests of Europe.

Blocking Floods.

After having explained how the presence of forests purifies the atmosphere, Mr. Marin tells his readers how they prevent or reduce the possibility of inundations. Because of its spongy sod composed mainly of leaves, the forest absorbs the rain-water and like "a vast sponge, retains the water to let it afterwards slowly escape." Moreover, where they exist in places formed by mountains and sand banks, they constitute a protection for these. As such, they must be carefully preserved, inasmuch as they guard the people settled in those localities from landslides and sand drifting. The forests' beneficial influence on the climatic conditions of a country is also described. They act as a 'mediator' between cold and warm temperatures; where they exist, the summer is not so hot and the winter much milder than in places where there are none. Experience further shows that they regulate rain-falls and provides by

means of their streams and brooks drinkable water to the neighboring inhabited places. Besides, the contamination of this water is impossible when supplied by the forests. Mr. Marin emphasizes as follows the important part which the forests play in delaying freshets, thereby preventing floods.

"This influence of the forest on the overflow of streams has been so carefully studied and appreciated, that reforestation is now considered, in mountainous regions, as the most effective means to suppress the floods. It is also acknowledged that the maintenance and the reconstitution of the forests prevent the sand and clay from sliding into the streams and rivers. In foreign countries, most rigorous regulations have been enforced with a view to adequately protect the forests."

Lessons of the War.

The writer then deals with efforts made by France in the 19th century in the reconstruction of its forests. There still remain about four millions hectares (about 9,880,000 acres) of untitled lands which could be turned into well-wooded sections, and about two millions hectares of mountainous areas