

## AMONG THE BOOKS

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The War brought to the front two pre-eminent men—Foch, and Clemenceau: the commander-in-chief, and the great premier of the French Republic. Each was, and is, indomitable. Clemenceau's answer to questions flung at him as to the best thing to be done in the crisis of a year ago, when it looked as if Germany might, at last, crush France to the ground, was invariably, "*Je fais la guerre. Je fais la guerre*" ("I make war. I make war."). "If you ask me my war aims, I reply that my war aim is victory to the full." A man of seventy-eight, he is the same unafraid and unwearyed fighter that he has always been, since, as a young country doctor in his twenties, he flung himself into municipal and political life. It was, with him, according to his lights, "Country first, and liberty always." The story of this notable veteran is told by H. M. Hyndman, under the title **Clemenceau** (Frederick D. Goodchild, Toronto, 338 pages, full-page portrait, \$2.00 net).

The writer is a well-known English Socialist. It is a perpetual grief to him that his hero did not become of the Socialist Party, but he relates in interesting detail the battles he waged from early manhood to the present hour, as a stalwart Republican and a thoroughgoing democratic politician of the advanced Left. He well earned the mocking title of "The Tiger" in the stirring, tragic Gambetta days. It has clung to him, and has become his crown of glory in the eyes of his countrymen.

The book is a philosophic and historical review of a long, stormy, eventful period in France's life, and how this one remarkable personality has figured in it, and especially how, out of all his contests, he has emerged as a triumphant leader of all France in the dire calamities of the War years.

R. Louise Fitch, the author of **Madame France** (The Woman's Press, New York, 189 pages, 20 illustrations, \$1.50 net), spent six months in France last year, where under the direction of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of America "she made a survey of the moral, social, industrial and educational effects of the War upon the women of France." That Miss Fitch was given exceptional opportunities of making a thorough investigation is apparent by the results as set forth in her book. It

bears further witness to the courage, industry and resourcefulness of the French women, one of whom is quoted as summing up their wonderful achievements by saying simply that they had done "*just what had to be done these past four years.*"

Real stories of Laura Secord, and many tales of the Niagara frontier during the war of 1812, are cleverly woven into Harold C. Lowrey's story, **Young Canada Boys: With the S.O.S. On the Frontier** (Thomas Allen, 202 pages, price \$1.00). The story as a whole deals with the doings of a patrol of Boy Scouts, of whom "Chuck" Woodruff was the leader, who decided to respond at once to the call for farm workers to take the places of men overseas and enlist in the S.O.S. By good luck a call had come for twelve boys to go to Queenston, Ontario, and it was here, on different farms, that the Scouts spent a wonderful summer, working hard, of course, but finding much to interest them and hearing from one or other of the older farmers fascinating tales of the war of more than a hundred years ago. That the stories of the long ago war did not blind the boys to anything concerning the great War through which they were themselves living is quite evident when one reads of the interest taken in news from France and finally in the clever capture of a group of German spies who were planning to wreck some of the great powerhouses at Niagara.

In **Labrador Days** (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 231 pages and frontispiece, \$1.50 net), Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell has given eleven stories of the Labrador fishermen, their families, and their Eskimo neighbors. They are full of adventure, for the people of the bleak and rocky Labrador coast wrest their living from the sea, having many a battle with wind and waves in the course of their daily work. There is also pathos and tragedy, when, as so often happens, the sea or sickness claims the mother, the breadwinner, or a dearly loved child. Yet the note of sadness that runs through the stories is relieved by the pictures Dr. Grenfell gives of the courage, the goodness and the unselfishness of many of these simple people he knows so well. The book brings vividly before the reader the difficulties and the wonderful opportunities