

often the one divisive force in a community, the one factor over which the people break up into parties and fail to pull together for the common good. These are the three criticisms of the author. He has very definite, simple, and, one would judge, effective plans which he gives in his book. His book is likely to be widely read; and it is worth reading.

**Prime Ministers and Some Others** is the alluring title under which The Right Hon. G. W. E. Russell has gathered together a collection of delightful papers on public affairs in Great Britain, written during his long public life. Those who have been in the habit of reading Mr. Russell's articles as published, in more fugitive form, in magazines and newspapers, will be glad to have them bound in this handy volume. The articles here collected cover a wide field as is indicated by the section headings: Prime Ministers; In Honor of Friendship; Religion and the Church; Politics; Education; Miscellanea; Fact and Fiction. The publishers are J. M. Dent & Sons, Toronto (345 pages, \$3.50).

A new novel dealing with the theme of the German menace, the reality of which, before the War, it was so hard to bring home to the people of Great Britain,—one might be pardoned for wondering whether anything fresh could be written on so well worn a subject. But, for the reader of **The Great Impersonation**, by E. Phillips Oppenheim (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 322 pages, with four illustrations by Nana French Bickford, \$2.00), all such wondering ceases before he has got far into this really great story. It opens with the strange meeting, in 1913, in German East Africa, of Baron Leopold Von Ragastein, a military commandant, and Sir Everard Dominey, who, leaving England at the age of twenty-six, had spent ten years wandering in Africa and was at the point of death in the bush when he was rescued by Von Ragastein. The two men quickly found out that they had known each other at Oxford, and that an amazing likeness between them had persisted from their under-graduate days. Von Ragastein, ordered to London by the authorities at Berlin, determines to do away with the Englishman, assume his identity and, under this guise, carry on his treacherous mission in England. The pretended Sir Everard Dominey, in due time, arrives in England and, though some of his relatives and earlier friends doubt his identity, he succeeds in playing his part so well as to be generally received as the genuine Sir Everard. A complication is introduced by the attitude of the wife who had been driven into insanity by the tragedy which had sent Sir Everard out of England, while the Princess Eiderstrom,

an influential Hungarian, whose husband had been killed by Von Ragastein in a duel, demands the former love affair with her be resumed. Meantime the outbreak of the War was imminent, and the spy system of the Kaiser was at the climax of its activity. A strange and charming love story, a portrayal of German intrigue almost incredible in its ingenuity and thoroughness, with a mystery that eludes the reader until he comes to the last page,—all these elements unite to form a tale of thrilling interest.

Amongst writers of short stories, W. W. Jacobs holds a place all his own. The collection of a round dozen of tales by this favorite author published by Hodder & Stoughton (London and Toronto, 305 pages, \$1.60) has all the charm of his former yarns. Of course the stories are about sailor men, and about sailor men ashore. Also, of course, the plot of each story is essentially the same as that of all the rest. And yet, in spite of this similarity, there is such an infinite variety of incident and circumstantial details, that the reader finds in the last story as much freshness as in the first. For tales of pure amusement, full of harmless fun, which, one has the idea that the victim finding himself in a ridiculous situation would enjoy almost as thoroughly as the onlooker, it would be hard to find the equal of Mr. Jacob's productions and **Deep Waters** is as good as the best of its predecessors.

No one will question that the political situation in Ireland is a serious affair, and should be taken seriously by all thoughtful persons interested in the welfare of that troubled country and of the Empire. But it is often a help, rather than a hindrance, to the wisest dealing a difficult problem, to see the humorous side of it. For this reason, as well as for the sheer enjoyment which the book affords, G. A. Birmingham's **Up, The Rebels!** (George H. Doran, New York; McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 275 pages, \$2.00) is to be welcomed. Readers of this delightful author's **Spanish Gold**, **General John Regan**, **Our Casualty**, etc., will open this new book with great expectation, and they will not be disappointed. Of course, when, as in the tale before us, the step-daughter of a leading government official in Ireland becomes a Sinn Feiner, and, more than that, a leader in an organization cherishing the spirit of rebellion against British authority, complications are sure to arise. Sir Alick Conolly, the official in question, is a good-natured gentleman who believes in letting youth have its fling and that, after all, the Irish Nationalist is not quite so dangerous a person as he is usually pictured. At any rate, he permits his step-daughter, Mona, and her colleagues to establish the Irish Republic in the little town of Dunalley,