

THE BOOKSHELF

(By H. S. ROSS, K.C.)

THE NEW WORLD by Frank Comerford; Publishers, D. Appleton & Company, New York; Price, \$2.00 net.

The author made a searching study of unrest in Europe from Ireland to the Bolshevik front. On his return to the United States he was made special prosecutor for the State of Illinois in the celebrated Red cases in which twenty were found guilty of conspiring to overthrow the Government and sentenced to the penitentiary. Mr. Comerford interviewed in Europe and America the restless principals who are causing the spectre which is menacing the world.

The book opens with a frank statement of the problems now facing the people of the world. There is an indication as to how Bolshevism is seized upon the mind of the laboring classes as the answer to today's problems. Commencing with a sketch of Russian historical background and conditions of the country prior to the War, the book tells clearly the conditions in that country, the gradual rise of the Bolshevistic spirit and the growth of the Soviet power and shows the result of this domination. He indicates the fallacy of the Soviet idea. The solution of the problem of capital versus labor is then discussed. The book is well worth reading.

WOMAN by Magdeleine Marx; Published by Thomas Seltzer, New York.

This striking book is translated by Adele Szold Seltzer. There is a brilliant introduction by Henri Barbusse, who says: "This book has created a sensation in France. I have no hesitation in applying to it the words "genius" and "masterpiece". It expresses—and this is a fact of considerable literary and moral import—what has never been exactly expressed before. It expresses Woman.... It is a powerful, a virgin work. It ranks Magdeleine Marx among the loftiest writers of our day."

This book is being published in almost every country, in France and elsewhere it is being discussed by prominent literary people, the author having become a celebrity in a day. Unsolicited expressions of approval of the work of this gifted young authoress have been offered by among others: Romain Rolland, Georg Brandes, Israel Zangwill, Bertrand Russell, Isadora Duncan and many others.

AN INTIMATE VIEW OF ROBERT G. INGERSOLL, by I. Newton Baker, A.M.; Published by C. P. Farrell, New York.

The book is dedicated "To the memory of the great and good Ingersoll; to his peerless wife and daughters whom he exalted above divinities; to his faithful relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Farrell, and to all his devoted family—this wholly inadequate portraiture."

This intimate view was originally prepared by Mr. Baker shortly after Mr. Ingersoll's death, as a memorial for the private possession of the Ingersoll family but at the urgent request of friends it is now given to the public in a revised and larger form. The book will surely be regarded as a thoughtful if necessary partial exposition of the views of the Great Agnostic of the century.

The book closes with the following appreciations of Ingersoll by his grand daughter, Eva-Ingersoll-Brown, "A more inspiring, noble and complete declaration of faith was never born of human heart and brain. And, above all, be it said, to the eternal glory of this transcendent man, that he lived in absolute accord with these high ideals. His life was one unbroken melody of thought and deed, of heart and hand, of will and act,—one sublime symphony of conscience and of conduct, of precept and practice—one lofty consecration to the service of his fellow-men."

A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL LABOURER (1870-1920), by F. E. Green; Published by P. S. King & Son, Ltd. Orchard House, Westminster, S. W. London. Price 16 s. net.

It is sometimes thought that the history of farming should be written by a farmer. The history of the laborers should be written by a labourer. While this history has not been written by a labourer, it is written by one who tilled the land for many years and who has tried to survey rural England through the eyes of a farm worker. The author has written this history of the agricultural labourer as one who has lived the life rather from the detached point of view of the spectator, or the man of the study. The author thinks and truly so that, "The only honest historian is he who is not afraid to wear his heart upon his sleeve, as Cobbett did when he wrote his RURAL RIDES." A Gradgrind historian in exhibiting his selected facts is accurate at the expense of truth. The author has tried and has succeeded in interesting his readers in a life which many consider prosaic to the point of stolidity, by showing him that it is filled with great adventures. There are enough references to Blue Books to satisfy the academic mind but the chief authorities are obscure folk who follow the plough, who drive the cattle from the pastures, and

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who fold the sheep at the foot of the Downs. They are the unrecorded men and women who give us our daily bread.

The author in his introduction shows his high appreciation of Cobbett. The interesting story is told of how Cobbett forced the House of Commons to listen to him talking on a subject of which few members knew anything, that is, the condition of the poor. Also he tells the story of the parson who said to Cobbett, "Your religion seems to be altogether political." And the prompt retort, "Very much so, indeed; and well it may—since I have been furnished with a creed which makes part of an Act of Parliament." He also refers to Cobbett's ambition to write a history of England; "We do not want to consume your time," he wrote, "over a dozen pages about Edward III dancing at a ball and picking up a lady's garter and making that garter the foundation of an order of knighthood, bearing the motto of 'Honni soit qui mal y pense.' It is not stuff like this; but we want to know what was the state of the people; what were a labourer's wages; what were the prices of food; and how the labourers were dressed in the reign of that great king."

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3.45 p.m. daily except Sunday, arrive
Montreal 6.45 p.m.

6.15 p.m. daily except Sunday, arrive
Montreal 9.45 p.m.

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PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES.

This week the Canadian Wheat
Board announced the final value of
the participation certificates (the interim
payment was 40c. per bushel) and the
final payment is 8c., bringing the total
value of the participation certificates up to
48 cents per bushel. In all, the Canadian
Wheat Board handled about 130,000,000
bushels of wheat.