

It is not too much to say that a study of the book will be indispensable to all those who offer any suggestions when the time comes for the reconstruction of the map of Europe. Nay, we may go further and say that if our statesmen and politicians had known all that they can learn here, we should have been spared many and costly mistakes, both before and during the war. It is painful to reflect on the ignorance that prevails even among our educated and governing classes on Balkan conditions. Many lessons have already been learned by stern experience; for example, the unreliability of Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece. Yet there is nothing in the behaviour of any of these three nations that has surprised any one who is even moderately acquainted with the mentality and aspirations of these powers. Or again, what could have been more inadequate than the settlement of affairs in Albania immediately before the war? It is even insufficiently recognized by the public that the present war is essentially a part of the German "Drang nach Osten;" it is in fact only a continuation of the Balkan War concluded in 1913. To quote from the present volume (p. 316):—"The Second Balkan War was the first act in the tragic *débâcle* out of which the present situation developed. The interval between August, 1913 (Peace of Bucarest), and August, 1914, was merely an armistice during which Bulgaria and Turkey recovered their breath, and German and Austrian diplomacy had time to find a pretext for war on its own account."

Among points which may be novel or suggestive to the reader we note the following—and once more we remind him that the information in this volume is of a higher character than that available in the usual sources of information—which we quote from the original: "It must be remembered, also, that Austria-Hungary, far from decomposing, as it was commonly assumed was happening, had been enormously increasing in vitality ever since 1878": "The Mohammedan Serbs of Bosnia, who disliked all Christians equally, could only with the greatest difficulty be persuaded that they were really Serbs and not Turks, and honestly cared for nothing but Islam and Turkish coffee, thus considerably facilitating the germanization of the two provinces": "In A.D. 1204, Constantinople was stormed by a Venetian flotilla and the crusading host it conveyed on board, and more treasures of ancient Hellenism were destroyed in the sack of its hitherto inviolate citadel than had ever perished by the hand of Arab or Slav": "The Turks were quite as much Europeans as many of the Greek Emperors had been—those of the Isaurian dynasty, for instance. They had given no evidence as yet (A.D. 1481) of a fanatical Moslem spirit and their official creed had governed their policy hardly more than does ours in India or Egypt": "Indeed one cannot be among them"—the true Turks of the plateau of Asia Minor—"now without feeling that their day is not only not gone, but is still, for the most part, yet to be": "By an irony of the Osmanli position, the worse the empire was administered, the stronger became its international guarantee." The reason in the last case was the