

THE BOOK PAGE

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Action Front (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 294 pages, \$1.35 net) is another collection of war sketches and trench stories by Boyd Cable, the author of *Between the Lines*. This new book follows the same plan as the earlier volume,—taking short extracts from official despatches as text and showing the real import covered by the few dry words which pass the censor. There is plenty of the grim horror of war in the second book as there was in the first, for no true picture can conceal the heart-rending happenings which are everyday commonplaces at the front. But the lighter side of war is also described, and the reader is made to see that even life in the trenches, along with much that is terrible, has its lighter side and that amidst the stern business of war, there are occasions for jests. If the reader of *Action Front* is often moved to tears by the pathos and pain of its scenes, he comes also upon not a few humorous situations which stir him to laughter.

The War has given great prominence and interest to the discussion of the inter-relations of the various parts of the British empire. The self-governing dominions who are standing side by side with the motherland in the present tremendous conflict, are feeling with ever-increasing keenness, that, having poured out blood and treasure without stint in defence of the empire, they can justly claim a greater share than they have hitherto had in the control of its affairs. Many of the best minds in the English-speaking world are studying the problem of how this desirable end may be attained. In **Imperial Unity and the Dominions**, by Arthur Berriedale Keith, D.C.L., D.Litt. (Oxford, the Clarendon Press, Toronto, S. B. Gundy, 626 pages, \$4.15), we have a comprehensive and thoroughgoing discussion of the whole subject. Dr. Keith's book contains a full and clear exposition of the powers of self-government now exercised by each of the dominions, followed by a discussion of various possible plans for a closer union embracing Great Britain and all the dominions.

One of the results certain to follow the War is a better understanding on the part of Britain and Russia of each other's national character. To this result such a book as **The Dark Forest**, by Hugh Walpole (George H. Doran Company, New York, The Musson Book Co., Toronto, 320 pages, \$1.35 net), will contribute in no small measure. Mr. Walpole's new story has for its chief characters a group of doctors and nurses, with their "sanitars,"—two of the last class being Englishmen—who care for the wounded of the Russian army. It has its setting in those dark days, when the Russians were being steadily driven back before the advancing foe. The scenes of carnage and death, of bloody conflicts and sudden retreats have for their background Russia itself, and we feel ourselves, as we read, transported out of our ordinary atmosphere and moving amongst the people of that vast, mysterious empire, entering into their loves and hates, their ideals and their beliefs. The love story of Sister Marie Ivanovna holds

the central place in the book, and around it all the other events group themselves. Those who wish to understand the soul of Russia will not neglect this tale.

The German Soul, by Baron F. Von Hugel (J. M. Dent and Sons, London, 222 pages, 75c., postpaid), deals with the spiritual forces which have determined the attitude of the German people in relation to the War. The book is an interesting study of national character and the influence of the religious and philosophical views held by various groups of thinkers and writers in Germany. Some of the newest issues in Dent's Wayfarer's Library (30c. each, postage 6c.) are: **The Pillars of Society**, by A. G. Gardiner; **The Grey Man**, by S. R. Crockett; **Cupid, V.C.**, by J. A. Steuart; and **Rising Fortunes**, by John Oxenham.

"Because I am a German, I would not, upon any inducement set my country higher than truth." These words are a full justification of the remarkable little volume **Because I am a German**, by H. Fernau, (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 154 pages, \$1.00). The author is a patriot in heart and soul, who will not sacrifice justice and reason to his own private seal. His book is a critical appreciation of the famous J'accuse, several of the German replies to which are carefully weighed and refuted as superficial investigations of the truth. Anxious as Mr. Fernau is to falsify the charges against Germany in J'accuse, he cannot do so. He pleads in the name of Europe for the placing of the responsibility for the crime of the great war and for the punishment of the criminal. His book helps to place that responsibility on his own country. The clearness and cogency of argument in the book doubtless explains its prohibition in Germany.

Other War books received are: **A Visit to the Three Fronts**, Glimpses of the British, Italian, and French lines, by Arthur Conan Doyle (Hodder and Stoughton, London and Toronto, paper, 79 pages, 15c. net); **Halt! Who Goes There?** by Wilfrid Meynell, the author of *Aunt Sarah and the War* (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, 112 pages, 75c. net); and **German Atrocities: An Official Investigation**, by J. H. Morgan, M.A. (The Musson Book Co., 128 pages, 75c.).

The Way of the Rivers (249 pages) and **The Way of the Hills** (265 pages) are two of the eight volumes in The King's Highway Series published by The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, price 55c. the volume. The purpose of the series is to provide "a graded system of elementary moral and religious training for the home and private school." The subject matter of each volume relates to the virtues and vices peculiar to children of the age with which it deals. The method is that of the story. The scheme of virtues and vices was determined by a questionnaire circulated amongst a selected number of specially qualified teachers. The indirect or story method was fixed upon because of the results of a similar questionnaire. These little volumes will be of great value to parents in the training of their children, and should find a place in every Sunday School library. The series as projected includes not less than six hundred Biblical stories and selections in the form of verses, proverbs, parables and scripture classics.