

and Latin verse and prose. It is, of course, open to question whether in this country too much importance has not attached to acrobatics of this kind. Yet, as a training in the concise and precise use of words, these acrobatics have proved of the greatest value to some of the purest writers of classical and modern English. They have given grace and flexibility to the national idiom, whereas the deluge of textual emendations of fifth-rate authors, which seems to be the chief concern of German professors and their seminar students, serves no strictly literary purpose, as a rule, adds little but waste paper to the archives of human knowledge. No, if British methods of classical teaching require alteration, which is probable, we might profitably take a cue or two from France, where the ancient tongues are studied in a less rigid grammatical shape than over here, as the most perfect instruments of training in both logical thought and verbal felicity.

If I were a German critic I should not fail to dwell on the pure coincidence that two of the greatest names, or hailed as such, in modern German philosophy are those of Kant, a Scot by descent, and of Chamberlain, an unfrocked Briton.

WOMEN AFTER WAR

The Vigorous Views of W. L. George Command Attention

AS to women, says W. L. George, writing in the English Review on his customary topic, there is one view which deserves to be added to the casualty list; it is this: "Nobody will get married. There will not be enough men to go round." Well, there never were enough men to go round: according to the last census of England and Wales, there were only 17,445,608 males against 18,624,884 females. An insoluble problem in a non-Moslem land! But, in spite of these figures, I assert that the problem did not lie there. Observing that any man, however old, however repulsive, will easily find a mate, if only because he holds the purse, while many unattractive women can never marry at all, there are quite enough men to go round. The census bears this out, for it reveals 3,471,672 unmarried men over nineteen. Many of these married after the census was taken, but that does not affect the calculation, because others sprang up to fill in



TO THE PEACE PALACE.

It will soon be time to get it ready for use.

—Willy Sluiter, in De Nieuwe Amsterdammer, Amsterdam.

An optimistic cartoon from Holland.

England and Wales and ranks of misogyny. There were close on three and a half millions eligible but unmarried men; there were nearly three for every superfluous woman!

The reason for this is that women marry when they can and men when they must. There are good reasons for this, and one of them is that women have been taught to cherish their virtue, while men seldom grow old enough to blush for theirs. Chastity is not for a bachelor. Also, marriage is expensive, complicated, the enemy of freedom, and many men hold that woman is the one "who halves our joys and doubles our expenses."

The war will not improve this state of things; it will make it worse, but not very much worse. An estimate of casualties is impossible at present, because the casualties are so published as to make calculations very difficult. But, taking the figures up to the end of 1915, and adding such information as has come to hand; adding also a fair average on the basis of peace at the end of 1917 and of an army of five millions, the British dead and permanently incapacitated should amount to between 800,000 and 1,200,000. A number of these are married, but must come in all the same, because widows have seldom been discouraged by past experience, and in this particular case very few will be over forty. Still, taking the figures at the worst, at 1,200,000, making a total deficit of male population of about 2,400,000, we still have that permanent residuum of 3,471,672 men who do not, cannot, or will not, marry, a class which can absorb all the superfluous women, wipe out all the casualties, and still have a million in hand with which to stifle the bitter cry of British maidenhood. Besides, in thirty years or so the men who have lost limbs and the women who have lost hope will be dead. We shall forget them before that, as the men lost their prestige and the women lose their looks. It is a passing effect; little by little those who are left stranded by the tide of war will become as the seaweed that dries in the sun and life will regain its course. This is brutal, but it is true.

It is suggested that the women who cannot turn to men will turn to work. I think they will, partly because the pensions paid to widows and mothers will probably be small and make it necessary for them to earn something, but very much more because the tendency to work is a growing one in modern women. The wage-earning woman came in in the 'forties with the factory system, and every year she has increased in numbers; during the war her ranks have known an enormous influx; but the educated girl who in the 'eighties and 'nineties wanted to be a nurse, a secretary, a school-teacher has long been mobbing the employment bureau. That will go on, and the war has nothing whatever to do with it; woman works because she must live and because men are not willing to keep her; she also has to work because she is tired of being kept, and is glad to exchange the slavery of the home for the slavery of employment. It is a good, brave tendency and the war will strengthen it; this will be one of the war's few valuable legacies.

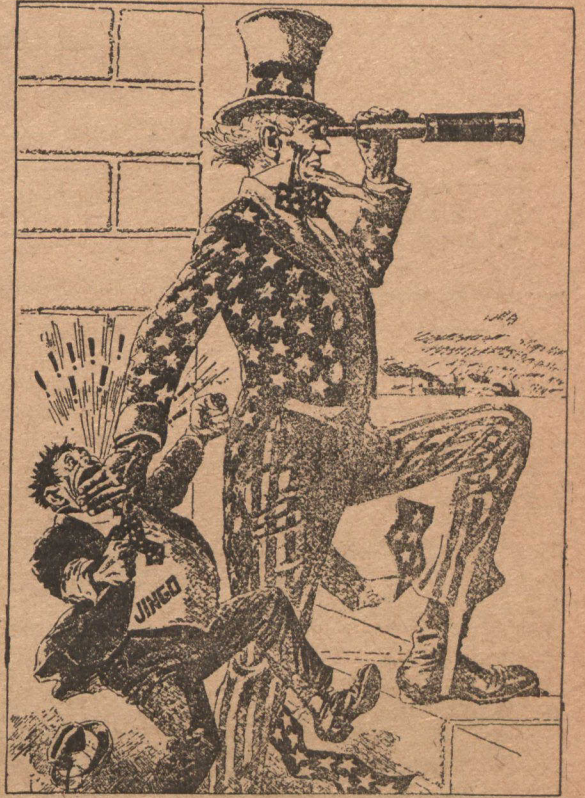
As for the great mass of girl labour, it is too flighty, too disinclined to look upon work as anything but the prelude to marriage to bother about raising the conditions of a trade which it intends to abandon. As for the sweated, the box-makers to whom the Wages Board allots 2½d. an hour, they have time to think only of finding enough to eat.

It is not that women are incapable of sticking together; in occasional sharp strikes (which are pitiful because so ragged, so unorganized) they show a splendid capacity for this. But in the end they do not stand together as well as men, and one reason, I expect, is their individualistic training, the ancient tradition that each woman's job is to catch a man. Work is just a painful necessity which enables them to live or to buy fripperies; it is not a career. With men, it is always more or less a career, and so men have had to organize the trades or professions so important in their lives. They have had to sacrifice some of their individuality, while women remain anarchists; women are still more capable of self-sacrifice than of co-operation. Men being infinitely more law-abiding are infinitely more effective in conflict; to force they oppose force, while women oppose spasm. Even during the war this has been marked: I do not know of a single case where female munition workers have formed a union; at any rate, there have been no organized strikes. A union which never runs a strike is a sword of lead.

It follows that at the end of the war a mob of female labour will seek employment at any price,

undercutting itself and undercutting men; the home habit will have been broken and the determination to earn wages will eventually tend to lower wages. There will be alleviations, such as the posts left open by the dead; there will be the gaps caused by male emigration; there is also the fact that many women have been handling good wages: unable to continue doing so, many will become prostitutes. But all this in figures such as those with which we deal does not amount to anything; we still have to count with a great mass of incoherent, greedy labour.

I do not think any clear aims can be drawn from women by war, for sane thinking is not brought about



Uncle Sam: "Don't get excited!"

—Murphy, in Chicago Examiner.

by fighting, and still less will it be brought out by reading about fighting. Broadly, men may emerge from this war rough as football players and women as hysterical as the people who look on at the match. This does not mean that women workers will not have learnt self-reliance: certainly every well-paid woman worker tends to become the "clear-eyed, weather-beaten, etc.," but that is not an effect of war. I agree that the female omnibus conductor has more opportunity than a shorthand-writer of becoming weather-beaten and possibly clear-eyed. Only, that is an effect of work, not an effect of war; work is work, and I know from personal experience that there is nothing warlike in a shell factory. Shells at rest are neither more nor less murderous in suggestion than sardine tins. The woman who, before the war, earned her living, grew self-reliant enough. She was merely a little more sweated than she has recently been. It will be suggested that the greater number of self-reliant women is bound to affect modern conditions, but the fact remains that before the war there were already millions of self-reliant women, and yet, with all their advertised qualities, they seemed to do very little but undercut each other and meekly tolerate the reduction of piece-rates. The self-reliance of women contains little fellowship, it is only reliance on self. If, therefore, the quality of self-reliance indeed becomes more prominent among women, it is likely to prove their undoing; it will produce millions of additional egotists, millions of women with a strongly developed sense of their individual worth, their individual desires.

MCCLEURE'S for March contains the philosophy of Muldoon, the remarkable old physical-culturist, trainer of boxing-men and wrestlers and regenerator of tired business men. Muldoon makes a dead set on smoking—especially cigarettes. Any pupil or patient of his must uncompromisingly cut out cigarettes. Having got the smoke habit regulated, Muldoon proceeds to build up the nervous system.

Munsey's for March contains a novel by Alan Sullivan, Canadian writer, whose work frequently appears in Canadian magazines.