

In The Realm of Books

What's What in the Newest Literature

By NORAH M. HOLLAND

The Bolsheviki and the World War

By LEON TROTZKY
Mussion Book Co.
Price, \$1.50

DURING the past few months the general attitude of the Occidental mind, when considering the participation of Russia in the war, has been one of bleak astonishment. That "most eastern of western countries and most western of eastern ones" has always been a land of surprises to the rest of the western world, but never more so than at present.

Beginning with a series of most unexpected and astounding victories—victories which brought the Capital of the enemy almost within her grasp—at the very crest of her triumph "ruin and the rain that burns" crashed down upon her, sweeping her back within her own borders once more. Then, still reeling from the foe's steel, she turned upon herself and was rent with all the horrors of revolution. Yet still her Allies hoped. They said, "She will fling from her shoulders the weight of autocracy and turn to the fight once more, the stronger for her reverses." They watched party after party rise into power—and fall as quickly—while others in their turn proclaimed themselves the saviours of their country. Then at last, with sinking hearts, they beheld the land settle down to a measure of most inglorious peace under the rule of the Bolshevists, whose leader, Leon Trotsky, is the author of this book.

Leon Trotsky is not an anarchist; he is a socialist—an orthodox Marxian socialist. But he sees things solely from the revolutionary, international point of view. To him, the greatest thing in the world is the success of the revolution; not that in Russia only, but the victory of revolutionary principles throughout the world. To most men the Russian revolution was a mere incident, an interruption to the world war. Not so to Trotsky. To him the world war is an incident, a check to the revolution. Therefore the war must end—no matter at what cost to the nation. It is a regrettable incident that by his policy he has brought Russia to the verge of ruin—has laid her prostrate at the feet of the most autocratic power in existence—but so that the revolution has thereby advanced by one step, what matter? Vive la revolution! Such is the attitude of this remarkable man as gathered from his volume, "The Bolsheviki and the World War." In the whole volume there is no shadow of wavering, of doubt. It is a picture of a strong personality and, however little we may agree with his principles, it is impossible to withhold our interest in this statement of them.

Three's a Crowd

By WILLIAM CAINE
Thomas Allen
Price, \$1.50

DOLL BRACKETT, the incredibly silly daughter of a rich and vulgar American mother, while travelling in Europe, meets and marries George Marsh, an English portrait painter. Things go well with the pair until the undue influence exerted by his mother-in-law over his wife becomes obnoxious to George, who protests strongly against it. Finally the matter comes to a test and although for a time the mother prevails, the ultimate victory is on the side of the husband, who uses it magnanimously and the story ends happily.

The Green Mirror

By HUGH WALPOLE
McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart

THE GREEN MIRROR" is a tale of English family life—of the middle class life that has been so impregnable in custom, unchanging, unassailable. It is a faithful picture of the influence of a slow, placid, strong-willed woman upon those who come in contact with her. Then other influences come—the intrusion of other

lives and a newer outlook and, in spite of her struggles, the old order changeth. The book is well written, though slightly morbid and overweighted with detail. It would have been more effective had it been somewhat compressed.

The Food Problem

By VERNON KELLOGG and A. E. TAYLOR
The MacMillan Company
Price, \$1.25

IN this volume, "The Food Problem," the authors endeavor to set forth the character and scope of this great question as it immediately concerns the continent of America and to indicate possible methods of solution. Many phases of the subject are discussed within its pages, and the book is equipped with a preface by Herbert Hoover, the United States Food Administrator. This volume should be a welcome one to those interested in this very vital question.

The U. P. Trail

By ZANE GREY
The Mussion Book Co. Ltd.
Price, \$1.50

THE history of the building of the Union Pacific Railroad presents many possibilities to the writer of fiction. That vast struggle with the forces of nature, with its hundreds of incidents of heroism and self-sacrifice, its gigantic labors and yet more gigantic frauds, its turbulence and riots, its savage fights and bloody deaths, will always stand out as a purple patch among the dull greys and browns of American constitutional history.

In this volume, "The U. P. Trail," Zane Grey has endeavored to make this period live again before us, through the connection with the railway of his hero, Warren Neale. But his theme has been too large for him, and, while he has produced a tale which many will read with interest, he has failed in giving to his book the sense of epic grandeur which belongs to this great achievement. Mr. Grey has done better work than this. However, to all who enjoy reading of wild adventures on the western frontier this tale will be welcome.

A War Nurse's Diary

MacMillan Company

FROM the house of MacMillan's comes "A War Nurse's Diary." The author, who has decided to remain anonymous, wrote the book while on leave in Canada after fifteen months grilling experience in and about Antwerp, at the time of the German bombardment of that town. She was one of the first to volunteer for service in a Belgian Relief Hospital, serving through the siege of Antwerp, helping to nurse hundreds of wounded, and, when the time for evacuation came, fleeing with them towards a place of refuge. She witnessed the tragedy of many Belgian towns and spent the last months of her service at an Emergency Hospital located near the famous town of Ypres. The Diary is illustrated by a number of photographs taken by the author.

The Deserter

By RICHARD HARDING DAVIS
Mussion Book Co.
Price, 50c.

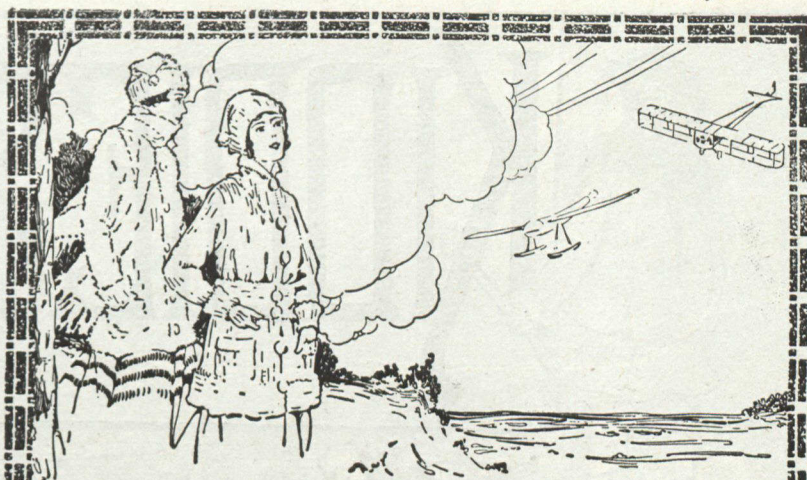
THIS story, "The Deserter," by Richard Harding Davis, will be received with additional interest from the fact that it is the last story ever written by its talented author. The essentials of the story, we are assured, are all true, and in the introduction we are given a slight glimpse of the after history of "the deserter," who was one in intention only, not in fact. This tale is an interesting study of the psychology of a man, worn out by fatigue and hardship, to a point where he resolved to escape the discontinuance of such discomfort, yet deciding in the end to go back to duty.

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