

## AMONG THE BOOKS

We will mail to your address any book mentioned in the Teachers Monthly, on receipt of price plus 10c. postage. If postage is found to be less than 10c. balance will be returned to sender. Address R. Douglas Fraser, Presbyterian Publications, Toronto.

Arthur Guy Empey's fetching book, *Over the Top*, was the most widely read book on this continent. It was the work of a young American, who served in Texas with the United States Cavalry, and who did hard fighting with the British Army. Sergeant Empey's new book, *First Call: Guide Posts to Berlin* (William Briggs, Toronto, 369 pages, about 60 full page plates and illustrations, \$1.50 net), is equally concrete and fetching. Its special object is to tell about army equipment, army life, army routine, guns, periscopes, trench raids, how the wounded are dealt with, and all the rest, to the boys who are going into the army and their people at home, and everybody else who wants to know. For instance, a whole chapter is devoted to "What Shall I Send?" and includes an alphabetical list of the things that soldiers best like to get from home. Bugle Calls and Rations is the title of another chapter; Old Soldier and Rookie, of another; Bombing, The Attack, In No Man's Land, Machine Guns and Snipers, of still other chapters. Amongst the extremely interesting cuts, are the military decorations of the various countries, and the cap devices and badges and insignia of the various Armies. The book ends with a Dictionary of Army Terms; and the International Morse or General Service Code, which is used in all radio and cable systems and signalings. Altogether, Empey's *First Call* will be found very handy for "first call" at one's elbow, in reading about the War.

Nothing in the great War has been of more entrancing interest than the part played in it by the aviator. For sheer romance and adventure, there is nothing in fiction to surpass the veritable tales of the daring and the achievements of air craft on all the fronts. In *The Cavalry of the Clouds*, by "Contact," Capt. Alan Bott, M.C. (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 266 pages, \$1.35), we have a series of graphic descriptions setting before us the actual happenings in the day's work of an air man. Captain Bott has given a vivid picture of the duties of his own squadron, which included "long reconnaissance, offensive patrols around German air country, occasional escort for bombing craft, and occasional photography." As one reads, he realizes more vividly how much

our cause owes to the courage, coolness and resourcefulness of the aerial cavalry.

A taking little handbook, entitled *War Cyclopedea*, has been issued by the Committee on Public Information, 10 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. It contains 321 pages in good, open type, but is so shaped, 5 inches wide by 9 long, that it drops easily into a breast pocket. It is indeed a veritable cyclopedea of information, or, as its sub-title sets forth, *A Handbook for Ready Reference on the Great War*. The titles on the two pages that happen to open up will suggest the variety that the handbook presents. They are under E.: Economic Conference in Paris; Economy; Education in War Time; Egypt; Embargo; Embargo, American; Embargo, British; Emden; and so on it goes. Whilst written specially for the United States, almost everything in the *Cyclopedea* is of general interest. For example, the article on War Loans and Costs takes in Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and the other Allies, as well as the United States, also the various enemy countries. How quite up-to-date the information is, is evidenced by a succinct history of the Russian Revolution from the overthrow of the Czar, through the Kerensky regime and Bolshevik control, to the opening of separate peace negotiations with Germany. The origin and meaning of the word Bolshevik is given, namely, "belonging to the majority." A complete chronology of the principal events of the War, a map in colors, of the Pan-German Plan for Europe and Asia, adds interest to the *Cyclopedea*. The cost of the *Cyclopedea* is a mere trifle, 25c.

*Best o' Luck*, by Alexander McClintock (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 171 pages, \$1.00). Being an American, the author, as early as 1915, became much exercised over the attitude of his country to the War and "came to the conclusion that any man who was free, white and twenty-one, and felt as I did, ought to go over and get into it." Thereupon he enlisted with the 87th Battalion of the Canadian forces, later becoming a sergeant and winning the D.C.M. No further commendation of this book is necessary than to say that it partakes of the spirit and style of *Over the Top*, by Empey. McClintock