

Dogs at the Front.

Beginners' American History—Montgomery; Ginn & Co. These faithful nurses were assisted by Red Cross dogs that were trained to go out and search for missing soldiers who had been so badly hurt that they could neither move nor call for help. When the dogs found such cases, they would trot back and get some one to go with them and bring the poor fellows to the hospital. Now let us see how our soldiers lived and what they did. You might think that the first thing they would do would be to use their guns. No, the first thing they did was to use their spades.

"When our little tots have mastered Peter Rabbit and the Little Red Hen, we tell them a nice soldier bedtime story about war dogs. I never saw a dog on the front. Dogs would be hard to camouflage and would betray our position to the enemy.

Momentous Battles.

History of the People of the United States—Waddy Thompson; D. C. Heath & Co. Here, on Sept. 6, 1914, the Allies, under the French commander, General Joseph J. D. Joffre, turned upon the invaders. In this four days' battle the Allies, striking the right wing of the enemy and crumpling it up, compelled the entire German army to retreat to Northern France and to Belgium. This First Battle of the Marne is one of the most momentous battles of history, for it saved, not Paris alone, but civilization.

"There were momentous situations all over the Old World long before America entered the war. These early days receive very brief mention. The author probably had in mind General Joseph J. C. Joffre. I am unable to visualize an army of every 'man in uniform he could lay his hands upon, firemen and all, requisitioning for the purpose about 1,000 of the Paris taxis,' as is stated by a French historian, and that the Germans lost 150,000.

"The prowess of France is confirmed by another writer, who reduces the distance to fifty miles. Very little mention is made of Liège, Mons, Caëteu-Cambrai, Dixmude and other fields of honor.

The "Drive" at the Marne.

Elementary American History and Government—Woodburn and Moran; Longmans, Green & Co. Just in the nick of time General Joffre threw a hastily collected army upon the west flank of the Germans and in four days drove them back about fifty miles. This was the famous "First Battle of the Marne." It will probably be looked upon as one of the decisive battles in the history of the world.

"I was born in Missouri. If the French drove back the Germans as stated by the historians, then the French had gained the initiative and they could select the place for attack. Why did they not keep on driving and put them across the Rhine? What put the German line back forty miles at Amiens and about thirty miles in the vicinity of Chalons?

"The Germans were violating a fundamental law of tactics; trying to fight more than one battle at a time. They were about fifteen miles from Paris. They had failed to remove the civilians in invaded territory and the army was being depleted to guard lines of supply and send men to the Russian front. If the enemy appeared in force, their lines of communication would probably break down. It was necessary to pull back and stabilize on a front they could hold.

"The school histories seem to jump from 1914 to 1918 with little mention of the first operations of the Americans. I failed to find mention of loss of transport Saratoga and credit to our navy the first victory over Germany.