

Translator's Introductory Note

den ersten Kriegsmonaten" ("The Devastation of Europe: Notes written during the first few months of the War").

Not much seems to be known in England about Dr. Muehlon's personal history. He is a Bavarian, as he tells us himself (p. 189), and he was one of the directors of Krupp's, the great German armament firm at Essen, "from shortly before the war till towards the end of 1914," when he at last succeeded in "freeing himself from the profession he loathed" (p. xi). It is said that, in resigning his directorship, he sacrificed a very large salary—£10,000 *plus* certain percentages—and that the other members of the Board tried to persuade him to remain by offering to make him chairman.

He appears to have had a long-standing connection with the German Foreign Office: at any rate, even after his resignation from Krupp's—and after he had become a "neurasthenic," according to Herr von Payer—he was employed by the German Government in negotiations with Roumania before that country became a belligerent. Some time early in 1917 he left Germany, bought an old country-house near Berne, and settled there with his family.