

ture post cards, some of which have been reproduced.—(Dampierre, p. 172, gives such a post card of Etain, which the enemy has christened Eton.)

Numerous German diaries record the burning of villages, usually on the excuse that the German troops were fired on, though in almost every such case where there was firing it can be shown to have proceeded from uniformed and organised French troops. For example, the diary of a warrant officer of the 117th Infantry says: "Approaching the Meuse we draw a violent fire from infantry and machine-guns on the fringe of the wood on the farther bank. The enemy retired. The village (of Villers-sur-Meuse) was burnt."

The pretext that the French and Belgian population was armed was advanced in some quarters as an excuse for these outrages. The statement was not generally true, though, even if it were, The Hague Convention permits the spontaneous defence of its native country by an invaded population. But in East Prussia where the whole German civilian population was armed and repeatedly attacked the Russian troops, when some small portion of Memel was burnt, the German Government in a note denounced this as a breach of the laws of war—thereby condemning its own conduct in Belgium—and stated that ten Russian villages would be burnt for each German one.

*Destruction of Historic Buildings and Objects of Art.*—At Louvain, by the admission of a witness in the German interest, Miss Emily Hob-