

Like the rest of us, M. Cochin finds Louis Philippe only very mildly interesting, and at best moderately intelligent and virtuous, a quite harmless and uninspiring king of commonplace. His highest eulogy (p. 261) declares of his hero: "Le dernier de la longue série de nos rois avait été le meilleur homme d'état de son règne; et pendant toute sa vie, mêlée à d'extraordinaires événements, s'était montré un parfait honnête homme, et un bon Français." With such amiable sentiments it would seem rude to take issue.

GEORGE MATTHEW DUTCHER.

France, England, and European Democracy, 1215-1915: a Historical Survey of the Principles underlying the Entente Cordiale. By CHARLES CESTRE, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de Bordeaux. Translated from the French by Leslie M. Turner, Assistant Professor of French in the University of California. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1918. Pp. xx, 354. \$2.50.)

HERE is a war book of the better sort, the work of a man of intelligence and discrimination who has deliberately endeavored to see clearly and speak justly amid the clash of arms and the conflict of nations, who has labored to promote a better understanding between allies rather than embitter hate against the foe. It is not a book of the hour. The French original, *L'Angleterre et la Guerre*, appeared three years ago, the English translation a year ago; but it has lost no whit of readableness with the passage of the months; its suggestiveness is greater for peace than for war. The success of any league of nations must depend upon the development of mutual understanding and the acceptance of common standards, and every such exposition of the common characteristics and ideals of allied nations may be considered a stone laid in the foundation of the desired structure of national brotherhood.

This volume is the work not of an historian or a political scientist but of a distinguished French professor of English literature to whom the history of the ideals of liberty in English politics, life, and literature has appealed as a subject of keen and intimate interest for the history of French political development and for the cementing of the Anglo-French alliance against autocracy, against the theory and practice of the absolute state. The volume does not consist in a consecutive narrative or exposition but rather in a group of eleven essays or lectures. The introductory chapter answers Why England is Our [France's] Ally? The second to the fifth chapters inclusive furnish a survey of English foreign policy with special reference to the occasions through the centuries when England and France have co-operated in the achievement of noble purposes. The remaining chapters discuss England the Mother of Liberty; English Individualism and German State-ism; Imperialism and Empire; the Modern English Spirit as exemplified in the Customs of the Country; the Modern English Spirit as exemplified

in the Literature; and, in conclusion, What the English have Done, What They are Doing.

The author is no kin to the scientific historian of the past generation whose pride was the precision of facts and the minute completeness of narrative. His easy transitions between widely separated events may be refreshing, but his carelessness or inaccuracy in matters of fact gives a harmful impression as to the soundness of the several contentions and main theses; but fortunately these petty faults rarely vitiate an argument or affect the general tenor of the conclusions. Parenthetically it may be observed that the translator has failed to correct even obvious errors and has not refrained from marring a normally good style with some curious gallicisms. Criticism of such faults of detail should not, however, detract from the credit for undertaking so difficult an essay amid the confusion of war, nor from praise for the clearness and vigor with which the main conclusions are sustained.

Professor Cestre has rightly grasped the essential characteristics of the English people and the main elements in their political development and in their relations to French national life and political progress. He understands, as Continentals too rarely do, the mixture of idealism and realism in the English character. He appreciates the steady quiet process of adjustment by which the English have extended the franchise and civil rights among themselves and the privilege of responsible government to their colonies, and the sincerity and consistency with which England in foreign relations has pursued the policy of balance of power. He comprehends the differences and similarities in the individualism and the idealism of the English and the French, and so is able to give a clear and correct exposition of the mutual reactions of the two peoples in the attainment of liberty. He realizes that liberty is a means not an end, while the individual is not a means but an end. In antithesis to German nationalism, absolutist, self-centred, self-seeking, with no consideration for the individual, he reveals English and French nationalism, with their modicum of self-centred character and self-seeking purpose, substituting liberty in place of the absolute state, promoting the welfare of the individual as their end not as an incidental means, inspired with the sense of chivalry and *noblesse oblige*, and honoring, in good sportsmanship, the achievements of others and respecting their rights to share in world affairs in proportion to their just merits. It would be a mistake to close without referring to the excellent critiques of the political philosophies of Burke and Carlyle.

GEORGE MATTHEW DUTCHER.

Behind the Scenes in the Reichstag: Sixteen Years of Parliamentary Life in Germany. By the Abbé E. WETTERLÉ, ex-Deputy at the Reichstag and in the Alsace-Lorraine Chamber. (New York. George H. Doran Company. 1918. Pp. xiii, 256. \$2.00.)

ABBÉ WETTERLÉ, who fled from Alsace just as martial law was de-