

A good plan, however, is not enough. The vital touch can be imparted to a book of this description only by one who has exceptional literary talent and knows how to repress unnecessary details. M. Lhéritier does not exhibit either of these gifts. His style is simple and clear enough, but lacks distinction. Many passages are little more than enumerations of statistics, lists of laws, or names of writers, artists, and their works.

As a manual for reference, accurate in the main and well organized, the book has merit. As a narrative of the things which have made the last half-century one of the most remarkable periods in French history it is disappointing.

FRANK MALOY ANDERSON.

Holland under Queen Wilhelmina. By A. J. Barnouw, Professor in Columbia University. (New York and London, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1923, pp. xiii, 321, \$3.00.) Students of contemporary European history will be pleased with this admirable statement. The author, who has spent a good part of his life in educational work in the Hague, is personally acquainted with most if not all of the prominent characters in the political and intellectual life of the nation. He has accurate knowledge of the subject and in no way overstates the significant achievements of his native land.

Students will be pleased with the correct statement of the Dutch case in connection with the fortifications question of 1912-1913, so diversely interpreted in foreign journals of the time. Valuable also is the account of the futile attempt to develop a Dutch-Belgian alliance between 1905 and 1912, in which some Entente journals evinced considerable interest. Other important matters are the Dutch attitude toward the Boer War, the trying days during the late war when Holland sought to maintain her traditional policy of aloofness, the economic problems attending the war, the numerous refugees, and especially the case of the German Kaiser and the Belgian desire to expand by incorporating parts of Limburg and the left bank of the Scheldt. Chapter XVII. deals with literature, art, and science. The author here is modest in his statements. The achievements in anthropology might well have been stated and a further discussion of theological and religious matters would have been desirable. In fact little is said of the religious life of the nation except in so far as it concerns the conservative Catholic and Calvinistic participation in politics. The value of the book might have been further enhanced by a list of the more important works dealing with the period, as, for example, those of Japikse, Brugmans, Colenbrander, and others.

HENRY S. LUCAS.

Official German Documents relating to the World War. In two volumes. Translated under the supervision of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of International Law. (New York, Oxford

University Press, 1923, pp. xv, 684; xi, 685-1360, \$7.50.) On August 20, 1919, the German National Constituent Assembly created a committee to investigate the problem of war responsibilities. Four subcommittees were formed, of which the first was to report upon the causes of the war and the second upon the failure to end it sooner. The volumes under review consist of the reports of these two subcommittees, the second of which has appended stenographic minutes of the sessions that were held and a mass of pertinent correspondence.

The report of the First Subcommittee is comparatively brief (120 pp.) and is made up of written statements sent to the committee by a large number of German statesmen, soldiers, and men of business, including Bethmann, von Jagow, Zimmermann, Falkenhayn, Tirpitz, and Helfferich. These statements are couched in the form of answers to specific questions put by the committee, designed to determine the degree of German official responsibility for the ultimatum to Serbia and the fact or character of any preparations for war in Germany previous to July 23. While many of these answers are perfunctory, others, which may be regarded as abbreviated memoirs on the critical twelve days, form a valuable supplement to the Kautsky *Documents*. Of especial interest are the marginal annotations of Tschirschky on his instructions from Berlin.

The report of the Second Subcommittee is of greater extent and far more significance. With ancillary documents it covers 559 pages of the first volume and the entire 653 pages of the second volume. The investigations of this committee were confined to the period immediately preceding and following President Wilson's note of December 21, 1916, which urged upon the belligerents the desirability of stating their war aims. The report in itself is brief and not particularly illuminating. The conclusions reached by the investigators, which seem to throw entire responsibility upon the German civil government as well as the High Command and Admiralty staff for letting slip an opportunity to initiate peace parleys at that time, are open to question; there is some justice in the bitter criticism launched by the dissenting committeeman, Schultz-Bromberg, at the methods used in the construction of the report. But the stenographic minutes of evidence, containing the oral testimony of Bernstorff, Bethmann, Helfferich, Capelle, Zimmermann, and Ludendorff, are of great historical value; and it is difficult to overestimate the importance of the 365 pages of diplomatic correspondence which form the latter portion of the second volume. This includes despatches exchanged between Berlin and Washington from April, 1916, to February, 1917; correspondence with Germany's allies concerning peace terms in the autumn of 1916; reports, correspondence, and protocols dealing with the necessity of the unrestricted U-boat warfare; numerous despatches and letters concerning the attitude of the United States during the entire course of the year 1916, the probability of mediation by President Wilson, and the final break in diplomatic relations. The collection furnishes the

most authoritative evidence thus far published of Germany's political condition and the plans of her rulers immediately previous to American participation in the war.

CHARLES SEYMOUR.

The Open Door Policy. By En Tsung Yen, Ph.D., Lecturer of Chinese at Georgetown University. (Boston, Stratford Company, 1923, pp. ix, 191, \$2.00.) This is an interesting volume. Dr. Yen first reviews briefly the period prior to Secretary Hay's notes of 1899. The opening sentence is slightly inaccurate. The author says: "Since the dawn of history to the middle of the nineteenth century . . . China's door was closed." He forgot the welcome given to Romans, Persians, Arabs, and Indians between the second and sixteenth centuries, the freedom of intercourse, the trade of the tenth and eleventh centuries, and the edict of the Manchus in 1685 opening all the ports of China.

The repeated defeat of China in war, it is correctly shown, was the revelation of her weakness that invited the aggression of the West. Her humiliation by Japan further encouraged that aggression. That war was followed by demands for leases of territory and claims to spheres of interest. It is well to remember that these demands and claims were the immediate and natural causes of the Boxer Rising.

Dr. Yen considers the various agreements relating to the Open Door and carefully weighs the interests of the several powers and the motives actuating them. Full credit is given to the American government for its activity in support of the policy.

The most interesting chapters are those dealing with Japan's aggressions. These are set forth clearly and truthfully and without exaggeration. The author does not believe that the Washington Conference solved the Far Eastern problem.

The value of the International Consortium in putting an end to spheres of interest is fully recognized, but, in the end, as is admitted, China must depend upon herself rather than others.

The book can be improved by more careful proof-reading and by uniformity in spelling proper names.

E. T. WILLIAMS.

The Open Door Doctrine in Relation to China. By Mingchien Joshua Bau, Ph.D. [Knights of Columbus Historical Series.] (New York, Macmillan Company, 1923, pp. xxviii, 245, \$2.50.) This volume concerns one of the most important policies with which American diplomacy has had to deal. Within the brief compass of 191 pages the author reviews the history of the Open Door Doctrine, traces its development, and notes its political implications, particularly its relation to the claims of certain powers to the possession of spheres of interest in China. International co-operation rather than international struggle for concessions he finds necessary to a practical application of the doctrine to great industrial