

termed lands in the Weimar Constitution, must have a republican form of government. He declares further that the Supreme Court can not declare legislation unconstitutional. Professor Hugo Preuss, the father of the new constitution, says it can; the question has not yet been finally adjudicated.

In the field of economics and labor the professor is on safer ground. His discussion of trade unions, shop councils and industrial subjects in general shows accurate knowledge. And I am personally inclined to forgive him many errors when I note that he has not been deceived by the yawping of German Socialists and Liberals, ably seconded by the Conservative American press, into picturing Hugo Stinnes as a combination of Tsar Peter, Metternich and Ghengis Khan. It has long been the mode in Berlin, to which all American correspondents are expected to—and do—conform, to represent Stinnes as the absolute ruler of the German Republic. This is arrant nonsense; he does not begin to possess the political influence wielded by any one of a score of American capitalists. Dr. Coar sees Stinnes as he is, "neither an industrial 'king' nor a political autocrat," but rather as a friend of the laboring classes, and a patriotic German.

But though Professor Coar's estimates of the New Germany are valuable and generally admirable, his estimates of the Germany that was are still visibly influenced by the American war-psychosis. He does "not believe that we were unfair in judging German *Kultur* solely by its objectionable features." God forbid that American *Kultur* be judged by the same test! The Professor declares that the German workingman was exploited worse than the American before the war—a statement which it is difficult to avoid ridiculing. He fails also to comprehend the true inwardness of German militarism, which had nothing whatever to do with the number of men under arms, but was a state of mind. He "does not know, nor does anybody know, in just

how far (*sic*) the German people regarded the war as a purely defensive war in July-August, 1914." I know; I saw them going to war. There were not two Germans in a thousand who even had a shadow of doubt that the war was defensive. And it is not at all certain that it was not.

The Professor takes pan-Germanism as seriously as did the Committee on Public Information. Actually it was about as important as is the feeling in the United States in favor of the annexation of Canada; compared with the feeling in favor of conferring our *Kultur* on Mexico by force of arms, it was merely a mildly interesting academic flurry. Dr. Coar is deeply disquieted by the fear that America is in the best way to become a *Borussia nova*, an inheritor of Prussian imperialism. But he finds that we, at least, "refrain from Biblical allusions and doctrinal argument" in furthering our cause. I regret to have to cut this anchor-chain, too. Here three quotations:

1. God insists that our principles of democracy and right shall be planted in the whole world.
2. God has called us to civilize the world; we are the missionaries of human progress.
3. It is our mission to teach our high ideals to the peoples of all the world.

One of these quotations is from a speech by Kaiser Wilhelm II; another is from a speech by the principal of the high school in my native American city; the other from a speech by the pastor of the First Methodist Church of the same city. Which is the Kaiser's?

S. MILES BOUTON

### *Men and Women*

MY UNIVERSITY DAYS, by Maxim Gorky. New York: *Boni and Liveright*.

LOUIS PASTEUR, by S. J. Holmes, Ph.D. New York: *Harcourt, Brace and Company*.

THE REAL SARAH BERNHARDT, by Mme. Pierre Berton and Basil Woon. New York: *Boni and Liveright*.

WITH CONGRESS AND CABINET, by William C. Redfield. Garden City, N.Y.: *Doubleday, Page and Company*.

ANTON CHEHOV: A CRITICAL STUDY, by William Gerhardt. New York: *Duffield and Company*.

FROM IMMIGRANT TO INVENTOR, by Michael Pupin. New York: *Charles Scribner's Sons*.

ROBERT BURNS: HIS LIFE AND GENIUS, by Andrew Dakers. New York: *E. P. Dutton and Company*.

GANDHI THE APOSTLE, by Haridas T. Muzumdar. Chicago: *Universal Publishing Company*.

THE LAST YEARS OF H. M. HYNDMAN, by Rosalind Travers Hyndman. New York: *Brentano's*.

FROM PINAFORES TO POLITICS, by Mrs. J. Borden Harriman. New York: *Henry Holt and Company*.

MY MUSICAL LIFE, by Walter Damrosch. New York: *Charles Scribner's Sons*.

THESE books, taken together, fill a shelf nearly two feet wide; they run to almost 3,500 pages, mainly large. But, I can find very little in them that is worth reporting; what is actually important might be very well printed in one volume of 250 pages. Gorky's volume on his university days is simply a mass of incoherent and disagreeable trivialities; one seldom gets more than the barest of glimpses of the university he attended; the rest is made up of his endless confabulations with obscure and disreputable friends. Mr. Redfield writes the kind of dull, dry book that any Cabinet officer of the more literate sort might write; there is absolutely nothing in it that is either new or interesting. Professor Pupin's account of his life is charming so long as he remains a poor Serbian peasant boy, but becomes tedious when he begins to go ahead in the world. His view of the United States is that of the chance immigrant who has succeeded in getting rich; it is lyrical, and at times almost ecstatic, but I doubt that it is always accurate or judicious. Mr. Damrosch recites his history as a fashionable and patriotic musician; Mrs. Harriman tells of her struggles and adventures as a fashionable and patriotic lady politician. In the Gandhi book the author admits frankly that the celebrated Hindu demagogue is a man of mystifying and, in some aspects, anything but admirable character—a fellow who knows how to blow

both hot and cold. In the Pasteur book Dr. Holmes rehearses everything that is well known about Pasteur, and adds nothing more. In the Burns book Mr. Dakers tries to prove that Burns was really a far more moral man than has been assumed. In the Hyndman book the widow of the subject offers massive evidence that her late husband was a bore. In the Chehov book Mr. Gerhardt analyzes the ideas of Chehov with such great diligence that the man himself fades into a series of apothegms.

The volume of Sarah Bernhardt remains. Though it is written by a worshipful disciple and thus leans toward a somewhat excessive charity in its judgments, it at least exhibits some unfamiliar facts about the Divine One's origins. Her mother, it appears, was one Julie Bernard, born in Berlin of a Jewish father from the South of Holland and a German Jewish mother. Julie, early in life, fell in love with a non-commissioned officer in a Prussian cavalry regiment, and was by him lured into sin. When he deserted her she went to Frankfurt am Main, and was there seduced again by a young Frenchman, a courier in the diplomatic corps. With him she went to Paris, but he, too, presently turned her out, and soon she was occupying a small apartment at 5, rue de l'Ecole de Médecine under the protection of one Bernhardt, a mysterious gentleman from Havre. Two weeks before Sarah was born this Bernhardt departed, and was never seen thereafter save for very brief visits. But he paid little Sarah's board in the country, and so left Mama Julie free to go into society. In a few years she was one of the most distinguished ornaments of the Paris half-world, and remained so until age overtook her. . . . Such was the parentage and early environment of the celebrated Sarah.

J. D. BLACKMAN

## THE AMERICAN MERCURY AUTHORS

R. D. CARMICHAEL, Ph.D. (Princeton), *is professor of mathematics at the University of Illinois. He has published books on the theory of relativity, the theory of numbers and Diophantine analysis, and many mathematical memoirs. He has been vice-president of the American Mathematical Society and president of the Mathematical Association of America.*

LEWIS GALANTIÈRE *is an American of French extraction who has been living in Paris for a number of years.*

C. HARTLEY GRATTAN *is a native of Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Clark College, and is at present in charge of the department of English at Urbana Junior College, Urbana, Ohio.*

FRANK HARRIS *is the author of four volumes of remarkable "Contemporary Portraits"—intimate and life-like sketches of men he has known—and of many other books. He is an Irishman by birth, was for years a successful editor in London, is an American by adoption, and is now living in the South of France.*

GERALD W. JOHNSON *is associate editor of the Daily News at Greensboro, N. C.*

VIRGIL JORDAN, *originally of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, is at present editor of the publications of the National Industrial Conference Board. He is also the American correspondent of the Foreign Press Service, and a contributor to the leading American periodicals. He is the author of the forthcoming volume, "The Greater Illusion: A Study of War and Peace."*

HARRY LYMAN KOOPMAN, A.M. (Harvard), *is the librarian of Brown University and professor of bibliography there.*

JOHN MCCLURE *is the author of a volume of "Airs and Ballads" and a frequent contributor of verse to the magazines. He is one of the editors of The Double Dealer at New Orleans.*

K. C. MCINTOSH *is a lieutenant-commander in the United States Navy. He has served at Guam, on the China Coast, in the Philippines and in the World War.*

FRANCES NEWMAN *is a native and resident of Atlanta, Ga. "Rachel and Her Children" is her first published short story.*

JOHN W. OWENS *covers national politics for the Baltimore Sun and is a frequent contributor to the weeklies.*

WILLIAM SEAGLE *is a member of the New York bar.*

HERBERT J. SELIGMANN *has been in close contact with Stieglitz and his work for six years. While not a professional photographer himself, he has devoted much time and study to the subject.*

PAUL TANAQUIL (J. G. Clemenceau Le Clercq) *was born in Bohemia of French parentage, and was educated in France, England and America. He is at present living in Paris. He has published a book of verse and has contributed short stories to various American magazines.*

CARL AVERY WERNER *is the editor of the Tobacco Leaf, the leading organ of the cigar trade.*