

CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY

WAR MEMOIRS, 1916-1917.

By *David Lloyd George*. Little, Brown & Company.
\$4 6¼ x 9½; 597 pp. Boston

This is the third volume of Mr. David Lloyd George's interesting memoirs. It covers the interval of time between his rise to power as Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Russian Revolution of 1917. The closing chapters deal with America's entrance into the World War, and prove, to what will be the satisfaction of most Americans, the author's extraordinary ignorance of foreign relations. His capacity for misinterpreting this nation's attitude and behavior during the years of the war is nothing short of amazing, and his criticism of Wilson is obviously founded on sheer ignorance of the true facts. Nevertheless, the volume contains some very pert comment on Great Britain's internal difficulties during the same period, and also some excellent word-portraits of the more prominent political and military leaders of the day. There is an index.

I AM A COSSACK.

By *Boris Kamyshansky*. Longmans, Green & Company
\$2.50 5¾ x 8¼; 309 pp. New York

Another autobiography by a Russian refugee. As biography it is a lifeless and dull narration of episodes in the author's life, and as a document describing the Russian revolution, through which the author lived, it is entirely worthless. For one thing, Mr. Kamyshansky seems to have had absolutely no comprehension of what it was all about. Furthermore, certain data presented indicate not too strict an adherence to facts. The author, it seems, had the amazing experience, in making his escape from Russia, of repeatedly meeting Jews and radicals whom he had saved from pogroms and arrests during his days as a stalwart Cossack, and who in turn helped him on his way to the United States where publishers never tire of putting out books by ex-Russians.

JOHN BROWN, Terrible "Saint".

By *David Karsner*. Dodd, Mead & Company
\$3 6 x 8¾; 340 pp. New York

This is the first biography of John Brown in a quarter of a century, and its value is enhanced by the fact that Mr. Karsner has made use of several

important letters which have only recently come to light. In these pages the heretofore blurred portrait of a prominent American character is brought into proper focus, and the fiery Abolitionist is revealed for the first time as he actually existed: a man with the heart of a lion, a fearless fanatic who, had he studied more of military tactics and less of the Bible, might have made a far more creditable showing for the cause of colored emancipation. The author gives a glowing account of the gathering of the storm which was ultimately to sweep over the little town of Harpers Ferry and leave a Civil War looming in its wake. But more particularly his book is an honest appraisal of one of this country's most pitifully misunderstood martyrs. There is an index.

JAMES G. BLAINE. *A Political Idol of Other Days.*

By *David Saville Muzzey*. Dodd, Mead & Company
\$4.00 6¼ x 9½; 514 pp. New York

Blaine was a Speaker of the House, Senator from Maine, Secretary of State under Garfield and Harrison, Republican nominee for President in 1884 and for twenty-five years leader of the Republican Party. Today he is all but forgotten. As one of his biographers, Charles Edward Russell, has said: "No man in our history has filled so large a place and left it so empty." The charge that he sold out to the railroads was never proved, but there is little doubt today that he was more than merely sympathetic with their activities. In the Crédit Mobilier scandal he practically did prostitute the Speakership, as was charged, by "giving his private sympathy and public approval" to his bribe-taking fellow Congressmen. He pretended to be a follower of Lincoln, but his Reconstruction record places him with the rest of the vindictive Northern politicians. Professor Muzzey conceals no facts in his very readable biography of Blaine, and says that he seeks "neither to establish nor demolish any preconceived thesis of his merit or demerit." There are several illustrations and an index.

POET IN EXILE. *The Life of Heinrich Heine.*

By *Antonina Vallentin*. The Viking Press
\$3 5½ x 8½; 320 pp. New York

Mme. Vallentin's moving story of Heine's life has in it none of the rhapsodic nonsense to which his colorful and tragic career has often lent itself. By merely presenting the facts of his life together with

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