

concerning the relations between belligerent and neutral states. The author, however, promises to deal with the latter aspect of the subject in a subsequent volume.

J. M. MATHEWS.

*Some Neglected Aspects of War.* By CAPTAIN A. T. MAHAN. U. S. N. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1907. Pp. xxii, 193.)

As the title would indicate, Captain Mahan has, in this little volume, called attention to certain phases which are often overlooked or neglected in the discussions centering around the questions of war and peace, armament and disarmament. He criticizes the position of many of the advocates of international arbitration in contending that all war is wicked and that it is never justified. It is his opinion that universal peace will be retarded, rather than advanced, by neglecting to look the facts straight in the face and to consider them calmly and diligently.

To illustrate his point that, under present conditions, war is sometimes necessary and justified, he cites the fact that the governments all resort to force to maintain internal peace and order, that evil could often be overcome only by force, and that by analogy, states must resort to force. Just as individuals felt compelled to obey their consciences when it came to a question of right or wrong, so it was with states. The conscience of the state is embodied in the phrase "honor and vital interests" according to Captain Mahan. He takes the position that there are certain things which are so vital, not only to the present generation, but to posterity, that no state can afford to submit them to an outside tribunal for adjudication. It must not be understood that he approves of war *per se*, for he thinks that at some future time it may become possible to abolish war, but that our present efforts should be directed towards the reduction of the evils of war with a view to its ultimate abolition in the future.

The volume consists of six papers, four of them being contributed by Captain Mahan, and the other two by Messrs. Henry S. Pritchett and Julian S. Corbett. The papers by Captain Mahan are *The Moral Aspect of War*, *The Practical Aspect of War*, *War from the Christian Standpoint*, and *The Hague Conference of 1907, and the Question of Immunity for Belligerent Merchant Shipping*. The one by Mr. Pritchett is *The Power that Makes for Peace* and that by Mr. Corbett, *The Capture of Private Property at Sea*.

The volume should be of interest to all students of international law,

and especially to those who are endeavoring to secure universal peace by arbitration or other means, for there will be found stated here some of the practical considerations which cannot be disregarded in the settlement of the question, whatever may be its final outcome. Captain Mahan is not an extremist, and certainly the extremists on the side of arbitration should read with care the papers contained in this volume.

H. E. FLACK.

*The Laws of War on Land.* By T. E. HOLLAND. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London and New York: H. Frowde. 1908. Pp. viii, 149.)

The Hague conference of 1907 readopted the convention originally agreed upon at the conference of 1899, according to which the powers undertook to issue instructions to their armed land forces in conformity with the règlement annexed to the convention. The same mistake was committed, however, as in 1899, in not fixing a time limit within which the agreement should be carried out. Of the few states which have thus far officially published, for the guidance of their armies, anything more than the bare text of this règlement, the most important are probably those of Russia, Germany, and England. The Russian instructions of 1904 possess the practical advantage of having been launched in the face of actual war, but although based on the Hague Regulations, depart from them quite freely. The German *Kriegsbrauch im Landkriege*, issued by the great general-staff in 1902, is unfortunately largely historical in character and bears little direct relation to the Hague regulations. The most satisfactory of the handbooks of instructions was the small volume entitled *The Laws and Customs of War on Land, as defined by the Hague Convention of 1889*, issued by the British war office in 1904, and edited by Professor Holland with an introduction, supplementary matter, and explanatory notes. This volume contained a systematic arrangement of the text of the Geneva convention of 1864, the declaration of St. Petersburg, and the first Hague convention relative to the laws of war. Supplementary rules concerning those points not covered by the texts were formulated and included by Professor Holland. Of this book the work under review is practically a revised and enlarged edition, though it has apparently lost something of the official character of the earlier work, and is now issued as much for the convenience of the public as for the guidance of the armed forces. The revision has been prepared in the light of the Geneva convention of 1906, and of the Hague