

Round and round, and sunward ever,
You the lustrous, I the free,
Lured to death by life's endeavor,
Soaring 'mid immensity.

Winged at length, the royal ranger
Beats his passage through the skies!
Man from danger unto danger
Fares beyondward, wanton-wise,
Seeks a goal through all betiding,
Flings the void his fleeting breath,
And with rapture riding, riding,
Takes the starry way to death!

Earth beneath us, planets o'er us,
Wheeling, wheeling out of view;
Constellations speed in chorus
As we circle, I and you,
Lone 'mid grand creation's story.
Through the vastness not a cry.
Poised for battle in the glory,
We are seraphs ere we die!

Past the toils of time our flight is;
In the proud ascent we plod,
Where the heights' untainted light is
Breathless in the gaze of God.
Here our quarrel and our questing
End—but nearer to the sun.
Sternly at the last the testing
Comes to all that man hath won.

Brave men strove and died before us,
But we strive in fields profound,
Far above the star that bore us.
In the vastness not a sound.
Only here your shell-bursts under
Spread and fall like fiery rain,
With the gun-smoke's silver wonder
Idle on an azure plain.

Nearer to the sun, my foemen!
I above, and you below,
Swung o'er the abyss, where no men
Venture, neither tempests blow,
Silent . . . Poising in the splendor,
Passionate with mortal breath,
Sweeps my soul, with no surrender,
Down the deep to you—and death!

Ruin-kist, but gamesome ever,
Proud we meet amid the blue:
Who shall speed the world's endeavor
Splendid foemen, I or you?
Here we crash: the great downcasting
Waits. May weal us all betide!
Buoyant with the Everlasting,
Lords of death, we ride—we ride!

Not all the fine battle-prayers are by the soldiers, some of the finest are for the soldiers, as, for example, this from John Oxenham's "Fiery Cross" (Doran, New York):

A LITTLE PRAYER

BY JOHN OXENHAM

Where'er thou be,
On land or sea,
Or in the air,
This little prayer
I pray for thee,—
God keep thee ever,
Day and night,—
Face to the light,—
Thine armor bright,—
Thy 'scutcheon white,—
That no despite
Thine honor smite!—
With infinite
Sweet oversight,
God keep thee ever,
Heart's delight!—
And guard thee whole,
Sweet body, soul,
And spirit high;
That, live or die,
Thou glorify
His Majesty;
And ever be,
Within His sight,
His true and upright,
Sweet and stainless,
Pure and sinless,
Perfect Knight!

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS

In deference to some hundreds of requests from subscribers in many parts of the country, we have decided to act as purchasing agents for any books reviewed in THE LITERARY DIGEST. Orders for such books will hereafter be promptly filled on receipt of the purchase price, with the postage added, when required. Orders should be addressed to Funk & Wagnalls Company, 354-360 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

THE UPHEAVAL IN RUSSIA

Ross, Edward Alsworth. *Russia in Upheaval.* Illustrated with more than eighty photographs. Pp. 354. New York: The Century Co. \$2.50. Postage, 15 cents.

On the "jacket" of this book its publishers tell us it is "an authoritative and fascinating account of the Russian revolution—and incidentally of the Russian national character—by a trained American sociologist who was on the ground studying Russia when it happened." The volume recites conditions which led to the revolution, or have supervened. Professor Ross, who holds the chair of sociology in the University of Wisconsin, knows how to study social facts, to analyze them, and to write of them with clearness. He traveled 20,000 miles in Russia, crossing Siberia twice; and conceived it his duty, in this narrative, "to present the typical rather than the bizarre." While he might have "unreeled a film of astonishing and sensational happenings, which would leave the reader with the impression that the Russians are fools or madmen," he chose to write of them as he saw them. In the months of his careful study, he found them behaving much as he would have behaved had he been in their place and had their experience been his.

Places in and parts of Russia little written about are described and pictured with vividness—notably Bokhara, Samarkand, Kakhetia, Krasnovodsk, Tsaritsyn, Ferghana, and Merv. Imperial power did much for Russia, he admits—particularly did he think so when he posted over "the forty-five leagues of beautiful military road that cross the Caucasus . . . now blasted out of a vertical cliff, now built up by masonry, now leaping across the gorge to find a way past the brawling Terek." He is ready to exclaim, "Only an empire could do this!" And he adds: "For introducing law and order into the Caucasus, quelling clan feuds and intertribal war, suppressing brigandage, and letting in the light-bringing forces, the Czar's Government deserves the thanks of mankind."

Professor Ross asserts that "what has happened in Russia surpasses the wildest dreams of the fictionist. Thanks to two revolutions, the smaller and more commonplace one of last March and the greater one of last November, there has been set up in Russia a workers' republic, with state ownership of the land and all its minerals and forests, the obligation of all to work, the arming of the workers, the disarming and disfranchising of the leisure class, and the organization of a socialist army of workmen and peasants." How it came about, he summarizes; and what will yet come of it, he suggests—the United States of Russia. But he is not quite sure of the near results:

"The excessive birth-rate of the Russian people is a menace to itself and to the rest of the world. If the masses do not limit the size of their families, all the land the peasants have gained by the revolution will go to support increase of population instead of raising the plane of life, and twenty or thirty years hence they will be just as poor and miserable as they are now. . . . Unfortunately the revolution has checked the break-up of the rural

communes, and communal landholding, with its encouragement to multiplication, seems now stronger than ever. . . . The false Tolstoyan ideal of unambitiousness, brotherly love, simple standards of living, and prolific wifehood would make Russia as dismal as China."

HAMPTON INSTITUTE'S STORY

Peabody, Francis G. *Education for Life: The Story of Hampton Institute.* Told in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the foundation of the school. Illustrated. Pp. 393. 1918. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. \$2.50, net. Postage, 15 cents.

This book is more than the story of a school for enlightening and uplifting the colored race, impressive as that story is. It comprehends the record of a man to whom that school owed its beginning and its first quarter-century of growth—General S. C. Armstrong. "An institution may rest on either of two foundations," says Mr. Peabody in his Introduction, "on a plan or on a man." Hampton Institute rested, primarily, as has been conceded, on a man; but the man had a plan. It was a growing plan of industrial education for the negro. It had to meet the need of a race, and of the nation. General Armstrong had commanded colored troops in the war then just ended, and had become interested in the negro problem. Color did not concern him so much as character. He was born in Hawaii, where dark skin was common, and not held so much in prejudice by those of American birth. He seems to have been born to teach, and to administration. His own college days were spent at Williams, and of the head of that institution he later wrote: "Whatever good teaching I may have done has been Mark Hopkins teaching through me." Booker T. Washington has testified to General Armstrong's good teaching. The latter was a good teacher, after being a good soldier. He was a great administrator. He had a worthy assistant and successor in Dr. Frissell. Their half a century of service for the negro and the Indian deserved the tribute this handsome volume accords.

AS TO THE EASTERN QUESTION

Marriot, J. A. R. *The Eastern Question.* A Historical Study in European Diplomacy. 8vo, pp. viii-456. Oxford: Clarendon Press. \$5.50. Postage, 18 cents.

No conceivable settlement at the end of the war can exclude a decision of the Balkan question, including as nearly a final answer as shall be possible to the problem of the Turk and the Armenians. To that end there is necessary exact knowledge of the course of history in those regions, the ethnology, aspirations, and rights of the peoples, and the reasons for the futility of "settlements" heretofore attempted. And that knowledge will be particularly necessary to the Americans who sit at the table where peace will be made. It will no longer be possible for Americans to feign an aloofness or even honestly to assume that we are uninterested and that the Balkans and the Turk are not our affair. "Humanity" is a large part of our reason for being in the war, and that must guide our diplomats to the end. Besides, we have our own special interests in the many institutions founded and supported by Americans in Constantinople, Karput, Beirut, etc.

The present volume sets forth in an introduction "The Problem of the Near East" as it existed in the fourth year of the war, and devotes a chapter to the topography and politics of the region. Then three chapters trace the coming and development of the Ottoman Empire. Another treats of the relations of Russia and Turkey, 169-1792; one deals with the



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GOOD YEAR
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Napoleonic period, 1797-1807; four with the rise of Greece, the period 1830-1841, the Crimean War, and the formation of Roumania; three with the Balkans, 1832-1908; one with the Balkan League and the two Balkan Wars; and the final chapter with the "Epilogue, 1914-1916." There are some useful appendices and also nine maps.

Here is a splendid fund of authoritative information ably digested, upon which to base a settlement which shall take into account the essential ponderables of race, religion, and nationality. It gives a clear view of the monstrosities and perversities which have characterized history in those parts. We know pretty well after reading this book what has been done and misdone, what must not be done over, and what must not be left undone.

The volume is most valuable. The one feature that is criticizable is the high price set upon it. A sale that should have been large must be greatly restricted by the cost of the book.

Phillips, Ulrich Bonnell, Ph.D. American Negro Slavery. A Survey of the Supply, Employment, and Control of Negro Labor as Determined by the Plantation Régime. Pp. 529. New York and London: D. Appleton & Co. \$3 net. Postage, 16 cents.

It is natural for the reviewer to question, when this portly volume is opened, whether its production, by author and publishers, was wisely undertaken. Was American negro slavery, when a fact, of such a character as to justify the perpetuation of its memories in such amplitude? The question rather insistently recurs as more and more the pages appear to approve a system now generally condemned. The author himself, now Professor of American History in the University of Michigan, has no doubt in the matter, it is clear: his task has occupied twenty years of spare hours; it was begun as a legitimate historic one; and he has endeavored, let us concede, to pursue it in a judicial frame of mind. His "varied Northern environment in manhood," as he phrases it, certainly has not overborne the "Southern one" of his youth. Beginning with the discovery and exploitation of Guinea by Portuguese explorers, Professor Phillips considers "The Maritime Slave Trade"; "The Tobacco Colonies" and "The Rice Coast"; "The Northern Colonies"; "The Introduction of Cotton"; "Types of Large Plantations"; "Plantation Management"; "Plantation Labor, Life, and Tendencies"; "The Business Aspects of Slavery"; "Town Slaves"; "Free Negroes"; "Slave Crime" and "The Force of the Law." Under these topics he gives many facts that are curious and little known, expanded by much historic matter that might have been omitted without loss of interest to his narrative. It is easy to gather, from his minute record, that the slave system was not altogether an economic benefit for the South, despite its cumulative conditions and the sectional wealth which came of it. Of its moral and political effect upon the nation, or any part thereof, nothing is said.

THE MYTHOLOGY OF CELTS AND SLAVS

Gray, Louis Herbert, A.M., Ph.D. (Editor), and Moore, George Foot, D.D., LL.D. (Consulting Editor). *The Mythology of All Races. Celtic.* by John Arnott Macculloch; *Slavic.* by Jan Máchal. Vol. XIII, 8vo, pp. xii-398. Boston: Marshall Jones Company. \$6 net. Postage, 24 cents.

The great value of this series becomes more apparent the nearer its completion. As we come to the less-known peoples we appreciate better the scholarship and enter-

prise of the work. No more fascinating body of mythology exists than the Celtic, while knowledge of the Slavic is practically nil outside Slavic countries. The recovery of both is a comparatively recent achievement. The great revival of Celtic study little more than antedates the twentieth century, except for the work of a very few pioneers. Concerning Slavic all we can say is that, outside fairy-tales and a little folk-lore, serious study by non-Slavs is a thing of the future. The combination of these two bodies in a single volume is therefore a happy accomplishment of the editor and publishers. No better selection of workers, probably, could have been made than the two contributors. Dr. Macculloch has issued several volumes which exhibit his mastery of the backgrounds of his subject, notably his "Religion of the Ancient Celts" (1911). Professor Máchal's digest of Slavic mythology rests in part upon a larger work (1907), and the capable editor has supplied a section which admirably supplements the rest.

Naturally each part of the volume demands and receives a treatment peculiarly its own. We would have expected from Dr. Macculloch an analysis that would stress the place of deities in the subject-matter. Accordingly we find that, perhaps unconsciously, the honorable canon of Cumbrae is influenced by his comparative studies, evinced often advantageously in his explanations to see in the stories of the early settlers in Ireland reflections of deities. In the first seven chapters he naturally is led to deal with the divine in various relationships. A chapter on the myths of British Celts, one on "The Divine Land" (the Elysium that appears so often in Celtic myth and folklore), and two on mythical animals and other beings and myths of origins lead up to the three characteristic cycles of Cuchulain, Fionn, and Arthur. The lover of the narrative and heroic myth will naturally hasten to these. His appetite may have been whetted by Cory's translations or by Eleanor Hull's "Boy's Cuchulain." If at all a scholar, he will not be disappointed with the treatment here afforded. The linguistic, archeological, folk-lorist, and comparative elements are blended with a felicity that is admirable.

Concerning Professor Máchal's contribution modesty in expressing an opinion best becomes the reviewer for reasons given above. The discussion is in five parts—the Genii (with ten chapters); The Deities of the Elbe Slavs (five chapters); The Deities of the Pagan Russians (five chapters); Cult and Festivals (four chapters), and Baltic Mythology. The very newness of this body lends fascination. Of course, the elements found here are in general quite familiar—ancestral spirits, household deities, and various water- and field-sprites and hobgoblins, with the attendant traits and tricks, spites and benevolences, common to this class of beings. And yet often there is a weirdness and strangeness peculiar to the subject and the people—especially in the celebrations which have left their traces in folk-custom.

The excellent notes and bibliographies, the latter including sources, which we have come to expect in this series, are present. The illustrations are abundant and excellent. We must also do justice to the publishers. Altho the price of paper has doubled and of labor very largely increased, there is no deterioration in quality of product. And the same care in proof-reading, etc., which earlier volumes showed, is also in evidence, notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties of the subject.