

we must see that there is no chance of cheating." But eulogizing T. M. Kettle and the other good Europeans of Ireland who fought against Germany, declaring the Easter Rising to be "really a black and insane blunder" internationally speaking, Mr. Chesterton still desires England to realize the ineradicable personality of Ireland. To that personality he gives every variety of assent. He quotes the Irish countryman with zest. He speaks charmingly of the Dublin intellectuals. He admires "the desolate splendor of the Donegal sea and shore" and sunlight like "a riven banner" on the Mountain of the Golden Spears. Belfast he handles grimly. "If ever there was a natural alliance in the world, it would have been the alliance between Belfast and Berlin . . . Blowing one's own trumpet has not proved a good musical education." But even Belfast he characterizes as a person. He tells of the Ulster mother warning her children from the pond, "Don't you go there; there are wee popes there." And Belfast saying, "We won't have the likes of them making laws for the likes of us." "In so far as the Ulster Protestant really has a faith, he is really a fine fellow; though perhaps not quite so fine a fellow as he thinks himself." "When I say that Belfast is dominated by a dream, I mean it in the strict psychological sense; that something inside the mind is stronger than everything outside it. Nonsense is not only stronger than sense, but stronger than the senses. The idea in a man's head can eclipse the eyes in his head."

The above quotation I have prolonged by two adipose sentences simply to illustrate the contingent liabilities of reading these Irish Impressions. Mr. Chesterton too often goes on his hands and knees and plays about with the whole vocabulary. He takes his associations with words as a matter of intellectual significance, and he moves from bar to barrage or from fact to factory with a blitheness that only affection can tolerate. But who can deny affection to G. K. Chesterton? He proves in this book that even the most patriotic of Englishmen can treat another patriotism with magnanimity, and even the most sociable and amiable of beings can remain kindly with the acerbity of a nation denied its primary rights. F. H.

The Next War

The Awakening of Asia, by H. M. Hyndman. New York: Boni & Liveright.

MANY eminent persons have said that Asia, the competition between the great nations for Asian markets and for the command of Asian resources—mineral, agricultural and industrial—was the real cause of the great war. In the case of Germany this ambition found expression in the Berlin-Bagdad dream. In the case of Great Britain it was embodied in the Cape Colony-Cairo-Russia-Bombay scheme. The dream has been shattered, but the scheme is about to reach fruition. As a result of victory Great Britain's mastery over Asia is so complete as to make an extension of the scheme to Peking not only possible but probable. Asia and Asiatic affairs are thus destined to play a definite part in the future policies of the great powers. Of the latter really there are only two left—Great Britain and the United States. Whatever ambitions France and Italy may have, their influence on world politics will be extremely small, if they will have any. That, however, cannot be said of Japan. Japan has a Monroe Doctrine of her own which is bound to come into conflict with the world hegemony of Great Britain.

At present Great Britain, the United States and Japan are allies. A really earnest effort, based on mutual interests and motivated by different reasons is being made in the Chancellories of the countries to do everything possible not to let the alliance weaken, at least in appearance. The clash of interests, however, is so obvious that those who have the mental capacity and the will to read the undercurrents of political and economic life in these nations, have no difficulty in predicting that sooner or later a conflict is inevitable. It is not to the interest of Japan to precipitate the conflict. In any conflict between Japan and either of the other two powers, Japan has no chance of success. The capitalistic and imperialistic elements of Great Britain and the United States are already engaged in creating an atmosphere of mutual good will and are banking on an alliance of these two countries against Japan, if she is ever rash enough to start a quarrel. It is difficult to say what is in the minds of the Japanese statesmen. As a rule they keep their own counsel. But this much may safely be said—that they are not unmindful of the rock ahead and must be taking steps against the dangers of the future. Under the circumstances it may not be altogether wild to think that Asia is likely to be the theater of the next great war. All thinking Asians are looking forward to that contingency, some with hope, others with fear. Right thinking Europeans and Americans who do not believe in the right of nations to exploit others, may well look upon the contingency with dismay. Anyway, being supposedly free peoples and in a position to determine what their respective countries will or will not do, they are expected to be well informed on what the situation in Asia is today, how it has reached the present stage and how it is likely to develop in the near future. In this task they will be substantially aided by the book Mr. Hyndman has written on Asia.

The book was written during the war. It was held up by the censor for more than two years and naturally does not deal with the changes brought about by the victory. This does not, however, in any way affect the usefulness of the publication. Mr. Hyndman is absolutely right in saying that now more than ever before "Europeans and Americans are prepared to consider the relations of the white races to Asiatics as demanding very careful study. That Japan should be fully represented at the Peace Conference as one of the great powers of the world, and that China and India, with their joint population of some seven hundred million people, should claim the right to make themselves heard at the same gathering of the nations, are events which can not be overlooked. Asia, indeed, seems destined to play a still greater part in the future than she has played in the past. It is important, therefore, for the English-speaking peoples, to whom I primarily address myself, that they should recognize this at once. Self-determination and justice for all races can not be confined to Europe or America."

In addition to a general survey of the relations of Europe and Asia in the past, during the course of which Mr. Hyndman very pertinently points out the debt which European nations and civilizations owe to Asia and her peoples, Mr. Hyndman deals also with the development of European influence and powers in India, China and Japan. His general conclusion is thus summed up:

"When I first began my studies of the influence of the white man in the Far East, I was of the opinion that this influence had been almost wholly beneficial. It was only by degrees that I was forced to the conviction that

European interference, European trade interests, European religious propaganda, European administration and European domination had been almost wholly harmful. Such reforms, that is to say, as we had introduced in the early days of our intercourse with the great civilized peoples of Asia, counted for little or nothing in comparison with the mischief we have wrought."

The detailed examination of European operations in India and China amply justify the conclusion and can any honest man, studying the question in an impartial and unbiased frame of mind and looking at it from the point of view of general humanity, possibly come to any other? Yet there are statesmen, great and small, honest and dishonest, who still talk of the "burdens of civilization" and delude and deceive themselves, as well as the world, that a kind Providence has imposed upon them the duty of civilizing the rest of the world at the point of the bayonet, with beer, brandy, bomb and the factory as the standards of their great mission.

In the growth of Japanese imperialism Mr. Hyndman sees a menace to the liberties of China and the peace of Asia, though he has the fairmindedness of seeing and saying that in taking advantage of her opportunities she has been neither "more nor less unscrupulous than her European compeers."

Mr. Hyndman's study is the most powerful exposure of the pretensions of the white man in Asia. It is marked by that fairness of spirit, honesty of purpose and virility of pen which have made Mr. Hyndman one of the molding influences of present day British public life.

LAJPAT RAI.

The Clintons, and Others, by Archibald Marshall. New York: Dodd, Mead and Co.

WITH one or two exceptions these stories by Mr. Marshall must be juvenile, or at least early work. Several of the tales were written for young people, if we are to judge by their manner and theme. One, *A Son of Service*, is about a boy who becomes a perfect servant. In astonishing contrast his rough little playmate, Rat-Catcher's Joe, acquires enormous wealth, becomes brutal and arrogant, takes on his childhood friend as steward; and then the story works gradually but inevitably around to the point where Rat-Catcher's Joe loses all his gains and is tended, broken and dishonored, by the perfect servant, who meantime has been amassing a very tidy sum. Another tale tells of a faithful bookkeeper who midway in his career got a blot on his ledger, his first and only blot. Nothing comes of this, but later his daughter goes wrong, and at the end the old bookkeeper dies, whispering, "The book! the book! clean and white! The blot is wiped out!" This story is somewhat confusing, for we never learn what became of the daughter. There is a school-story, *Audacious Ann*, an amazingly long narrative. The tales for grown-ups are mostly about the Clintons and others of equal or better lineage.

Most of this is incredibly dull, and it is also incredibly simple, even for juvenilia. The bookkeeper is humble, and this fact sums him up. He is classed and tagged, tagged many times over for that matter. The squires' families might be expected to come alive, for they are so evidently Mr. Marshall's central interest. But these too are reduced to an old and obvious tradition of a class. The squires themselves are bluff and hearty, they bring up their

families to observe fine old rules of squires' families like the one not to boast, there is the well known traditional prejudice against all but the most leisurely professions, the women-folk of the older generation are submissive and infantile, those of the present a little restive. Some one has said that reading Mr. Marshall is like visiting in a good house. From these stories it would be impossible to tell whether the house is good or not; the sketches of family life are no more real than the holly-framed drawings on a Christmas card. But the question lingers whether Mr. Marshall is not trying to impress us with the fact that his houses are good. He himself seems impressed. From all his talk of estates there is no living residuum, nothing in the least comparable to the pictures which remain from *A Sportman's Sketches*, for example. Only Mr. Marshall's consciousness of extent and inheritance remains. His sense of the classes is strict and invariable.

The most ambitious story in the book seems to answer the question which Mr. Marshall has raised about himself. It tells of a deluded earl who is nearly betrayed into marrying a self-made young woman scientist; it is an elaborate piece of snobbishness.

The Sea Bride, by Ben Ames Williams. New York: The Macmillan Co.

TO say that *The Sea Bride* could be readily transmitted into what is, according to present standards, an acceptable motion picture play is to define its incompleteness as a novel. The cruise of the whaler *Sally Sims*, the numerous fistfights aboard, the hazards of whaling, the eternal triangle packed on board and complicated by the rescuing from a South Sea island of the perfect hero, the seizure of command of the ship by the virtuous heroine, the humiliation of the villain, and the happy ending—all these could be transferred to the film without loss. Perhaps, too, in the theatre the author's wrenchings of character would escape detection as well as many infidelities to the probable in the way of facts. But what a theme he might have developed with what he has set before us! The breaking down of the morale of marriage on a three year's whaling cruise: the rotting of illusions by coarseness, monotony, hardships: the might of passion involved in narrowly confined intrigue on shipboard: these are excellent materials for an artist. If only Mr. Williams had endowed Captain Noll Wing, Faith and Brander with sex! In the face of such possibilities, his accomplishment appears still more inadequate.

Nor is he able to evoke the atmosphere of the sea. This, at least, the camera could do. It is very likely that *The Sea Bride* on the screen would be superior to *The Sea Bride* in print. To say that is, of course, to emphasize the author's failure as a novelist.

Contributors

SIDNEY WEBB, the maker of Fabian Socialism and the most widely influential of English social economists, was lately a member of the Royal Commission on the Coal Mines presided over by Mr. Justice Sankey.

DON MARQUIS is the editor of the *Sun Dial* in the New York Evening Sun. He is the author of *The Cruise of the Jasper B.*, and *Hermione*.

ROSS VONTREES is a farmer who served through some of the heaviest fighting of the late war as a sergeant in the Rainbow Division.