

August 13, 1924

meetings more or less connected with the British Empire Exposition. It was, however, a happy accident. Mr. Hughes's presence in London gave moral support to all that Americans did there for the Conference. Ambassador Kellogg rendered good service, and so did James A. Logan, Jr., who brought to the Conference his valuable experience in connection with European post-war difficulties. The American bankers who were in consultation concerning the loan to Germany were more than financiers; they were in a real sense public servants.

Mr. Hughes's presence in France also was of benefit. Undoubtedly he obtained there a better opportunity to see the situation from the French point of view than he could have had anywhere else. His visit to Germany, moreover, was wholesome.

Never has America served the cause of international relations more effectively than at present.

American Work in France

THE foreigner in France would do well to walk or cycle or motor along the river Aisne, the region devastated by the Germans, and observe present conditions.

Soissons is the chief town. It is slowly recovering. Indeed, it has two new features—a station for supplies of the

American Committee for Devastated France and the Committee's library building, where one may always find the little Soissons children looking at American picture books and picture papers and behaving with due decorum.

In 1917 about a hundred and thirty villages of this region (barely evacuated by the retreating Germans, and still under their guns, as was tragically shown later) were gradually taken over by the Committee. The rescue of the civil population was directed from the Castle of Blerancourt as headquarters. The Committee's labors are now completed, and the castle has just been transferred to the Mayor of the town. As Ambassador Herrick said in his address on the occasion of the formal transfer, "Every bit of the credit for the Committee's accomplishment belongs to women," especially to Miss Anne Morgan and Mrs. A. M. Dike; "the entire effort of seven years was planned and generated by them." During the ceremony Marshal Pétain deservedly advanced them to an officer's grade in the Legion of Honor.

The corps of women working under them in the Committee furnished complete household equipment for many families, gave clothes, food, and assistance to some 70,000 refugees, and can-teen service to no less than 300,000 persons. Its nurses paid 216,000 sick calls

and, in addition, treated two-thirds of that number at the Committee's dispensaries.

So much—indeed much more—American effort took place on martyred soil. International friendship was also shown in the collection of 50,000,000 francs to carry on the work.

And yet some people talk of our "isolation."

A Revolt, Not a Revolution

WHEN the outbreak in the Brazilian State of Sao Paulo began, it seemed an open question whether it was a revolt or a revolution. It has been said that an outbreak is a revolt when it fails, a revolution when it succeeds. The Sao Paulo insurrection now seems to have collapsed completely; the city of Sao Paulo was evacuated by the rebels before August 1, and at the last accounts we have the Government troops have scattered their opponents; the defeat, it is said, was largely brought about by the use of "whippet" tanks by the besiegers. No reports come of armed opposition to President Bernardes elsewhere in Brazil, but the rebels before the collapse of their defeat put out a manifesto denouncing the President as head of a political syndicate and as having "insulted the Brazilian army and minimized its prestige." Among the objects sought by the rebels, as stated in this manifesto were "more education, the secret ballot, separation of Church and State, and the prohibiting of the President of the Republic and Governors of States from succeeding themselves."

Brazil's Needs and Resources

A CORRESPONDENT of The Outlook who has lived in Brazil and has had unusual opportunities to study the country writes:

"Brazil has potential wealth and opportunities for economic development comparable to ours of fifty years ago. Brazil, on the other hand, with conditions and history somewhat similar to ours, is under the disadvantages incidental to almost one hundred years less than ourselves of national training in the arts and practice of a republican form of government. Consequently, it is to be expected that Brazil would be a more promising prospect for the 'outs' of Europe.

"It is perhaps too soon to know to what extent, if any, crafty aliens are



Miss Anne Morgan,
Marshal Pétain,
and
Mrs. A. M. Dike
at Blerancourt
Château, the
headquarters for
relief work in
devastated France

P. & A. Photos

selfishly exploiting the conditions in Brazil, and whether the 'revolution' now in progress is new or is a part of that which has been 'revolving' in the most southern States. Is either or both a part of an organized plan originated and developed directly or indirectly from Continental Europe? It is no secret that Germany during the war had strong and numerous partisans among the foreign-born population resident in Brazil. The strength of the national Brazilian spirit succeeded in checking any outward demonstration. Whether there is causal connection with this condition and the continued 'unrest' in Rio Grande do Sul since the World War, or whether the present demonstration is purely a political gesture, based upon recent real or fancied political injustice, or is a 'hang-over' from the military dominance which made possible the installation of the Republic in 1889 is not yet clear.

"Like every other country, unless already provided, Brazil needs a business manager, working under conditions which will make it possible for him to establish among other improvements a budget system, a complete scrutiny of governmental activities, personnel, and projects, followed by such a readjustment of governmental participation as will assign just limits to Federal activities. Above all, she needs a two-party method of political campaigning, conducted as a systematic, educational programme in political and economic honesty and justice, based upon the principle of the old New England town meeting, without too much of the modern 'political boss,' pernicious activity and nepotism, and 'win at any cost;' and, finally, the honest ballot, honestly counted, for which we as a nation are still working, and the self-control of individuals and minorities requisite for settlement of differences by ballot, rather than battle."

What of Mars?

VERY few of us will live long enough to see the planet Mars as close to the earth as he is to be on August 22. To have seen Mars as close one must have been living before 1800; while one must live past A.D. 2000 to meet with as good an opportunity again. Although the red planet is very close now, and will be for some weeks, on the date named he will be less than 35,000,000 miles away, and his brightness will be twice that of Jupiter, and three times

that of Sirius, the dazzling dog-star. Mars is visible about all night, and may be found in the constellation of Aquarius, nearly one-half way up to the zenith.

Dr. Percival Lowell, with the help of Mr. H. G. Wells and other writers of scientific fiction, popularized Mars, but only a few astronomers believe, as Lowell did, that Mars is the abode of life. On the other hand, few care categorically to deny it. A special student of Mars, and distinguished astronomer, Professor Pickering, of Harvard, who erected the Flagstaff Observatory, Arizona, made famous by Lowell, believes that Mars has seasons similar to ours, but double the length, with warmer days and colder nights.

Are the "canals" of Mars vegetation bands? The Abbé Moreux believes they are only optical illusions that can be produced by looking through a pinhole at the focus of radial lines drawn on a card. We can refine apparatus, but we cannot perfect the eye, and the detail of the Martian surface cannot be photographed, so the best hope of solving the puzzle is to catch Mars as close as he is now and do the best we can with what we have.

The Astronomers Are Ready to Find Out, if They Can

Is the white polar cap which is certainly visible on Mars made up of cloud, carbon-dioxide snow, or both? Is the white area which was recently seen and photographed by Slipher a cloud? Has Mars an atmosphere, then? Is the surface livably warm? These are some of the problems whose solutions are being sought by the busy astronomers this month.

The question of life on Mars depends on the existence of water vapor and oxygen. If there is none of either, life is precluded. If they exist, life could exist. Although Mars came almost as near us in 1845, 1877, and 1892 as it is now, astronomers had comparatively poor equipment for determining these essential facts. For determining the question of water vapor the spectroscope is used, and for this a "diffraction grating" is now employed. Fortunately, a marvelous ruling engine has just been completed at the Pasadena laboratory of the famed Mount Wilson Observatory which is capable of engraving 75,000 parallel lines on a block the size of one's hand,

with a deviation from perfect straightness of but one-millionth of an inch.

The heat radiation of Mars will not only be determined but it will be measured by zones. Previous determinations, which may not be accurate, indicate a very low surface temperature.

Contrary to logical surmise, the largest telescopes have no advantage over smaller ones in observing Mars. Powers of about four hundred diameters are generally best, and medium-sized objectives gather light enough to work well with these powers. Many amateurs own telescopes sufficiently strong, and much fine work has been done in astronomy by amateurs.

Even though much imaginative nonsense has been written about the supposed life on Mars, science is not deterred by this from making the present earnest approach to the whole fascinating problem.

Our Homing Airmen

As the round-the-world American fliers neared the Atlantic coast the interest in their success deepened, but from the time that they left the Orkney Islands anxiety also increased because of the weather conditions they were almost bound to encounter in the journeys to Iceland, Greenland, and Labrador.

The little squadron of four planes that left the Pacific coast is now reduced to two—first by the accident to Major Martin, whose plane struck a mountain in Alaska in a dense fog, and now from the break-down of Lieutenant Wade's plane half-way between the Faroe Islands and the selected stopping-place at Hornafjord. He was forced down by engine trouble, but, fortunately, our war-vessel the Richmond and a trawler were patrolling the coast and Lieutenant Wade was rescued; his plane, however, was badly smashed and has been taken back to the Faroe Islands; it seems improbable, though barely possible, that it may be put in order and that he may follow the expedition.

Twice the three planes made the attempt to reach Iceland. In the first attempt Lieutenant Nelson was fortunate enough to strike an open place in the fog, and safely arrived at Hornafjord, while the other planes were driven back to Kirkwall by fog. In the second attempt the Commander of the squadron, Lieutenant Smith, made his landing