

mysterious missions of William Bayard Hale and John Lind. Ambassador Wilson is very outspoken on the latter. He concludes his volume with this observation: "Nor did the results of this disastrous and amateurish policy—a policy not initiated in response to any pressure of American public opinion—extend solely to Mexico and our abandoned methods there. The story crossed the sea and became a factor in the decision of Germany to precipitate a European war," Germany counting "upon a wavering, vacillating, and retreating policy on the part of the Government of the United States." Indeed, he winds up: "The American public did not follow President Wilson into the World War—he reluctantly followed them."

About this there will always be two opinions, neither wholly correct. The book reveals that von Hintze, the German Ambassador to Mexico, had strong influence with Ambassador Wilson.

Incidentally, the volume abounds in pleasant—and unpleasant—tales of diplomatic life which create an impression that it contains a good deal of *ennui* and scandal, without performing any service that could not better be done over the telephone or by radiogram.

Art

A SHORT HISTORY OF ART. By André Blum and R. R. Tatlock. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$7.

It seems that not every one is writing movie scenarios or great American novels; a good many are writing Outlines of Art, and publishing them. This one, the fourth—or is it the sixth?—to elevate the brow and improve the mind of this department in the current fiscal year may be distinguished as the work of André S. Blum, Docteur-es-Lettres de l'Université de Paris, reillustrated and reduced into English by R. R. Tatlock, the editor of the "Burlington Magazine." The publishers tell us that Dr. Blum has created considerable excitement with the book on the Continent, and that is understandable. Education by synopsis is comparatively new in Paris, but theories about art are not. The book-stalls in the neighborhood of the Sorbonne contain not only a quantity of fiction that is—shall we say?—ephemeral, but also innumerable pamphlets called "L'Art: Qu'est que c'est que l'Art?" or by similar titles. It is a relief to turn from this thing to a book that has no pet theories whatever, and merely gives in a clear and concise way what the title leads you to expect—a short history of art. After all, Dr. Blum is hardly to blame if other people have had the same ideas. He and Mr. Tatlock have at least seen to it that their book is a handsome one.

War Books

THE POILU. By Joseph Delteil. Translated from the French by Jacques Le Clerq. Minton, Balch & Co., New York. \$2.50.

The author of "Joan of Arc" evolves an epic of the *poilu*, that red-blooded he-man with hair on his chest, the French dough-boy, who to the virile attributes of his American prototype in Western fiction adds a dash of sex, a liberal pinch of Gallic gayety and temperament. As a portrait of the common man emerging from field, factory, and office to fight for *la Patrie*, it is refreshingly unidealized. But technical skill and an incisive staccato style supply all that is necessary to achieve an apotheosis.

You see the *poilu* in the hell of Verdun, and in the heaven of his *marraine's* dainty apartment *en perm* in Paris. You see a French artilleryman in November, 1918, watering his horses in the Rhine. Occasionally one loses sight of this heroic Rodinesque figure. In the chapter on Wil-

son, for instance, and the one that celebrates Clemenceau, which opens with a brilliant word picture:

"The jungle of Asia swarms with ants and goslings. Under the giant eucalyptus trees hang creepers, drunk with monkeys and grapes of parrots. . . . Yonder a great feline advances, with quadrangular jaw, with great mustaches issuing from his nose. He is old, calm, and direct. His tail beats in cadence against his straight flanks. The Tiger!"

The reader may object that eucalyptus trees are never found in jungles of Asia; only in Australia. This is being carpingly critical, and not to see the forest for the trees. If no one thought it worth while to charge Chateaubriand with nature-faking when he described the Mississippi Valley in terms of the sub-tropics, why pick on M. Delteil?

Our war President is described with reverent imagery: "Wilson is a gentle, sad Quaker, with glasses and a grimace. He is tall, with the shoulders of a hare, with a profile like Niagara Falls. Pale enigmas prowl over his face. Noble of race, there is something ethereal and astral in him which makes of him a reflection of the firmament."

One is tempted to quote whole chapters, but space permits of only one, the last, entitled "Peace." The chapter contains a single word—"Alas!"

Books Received

A MANUAL OF SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH PROCEDURE. Compiled and Edited by William Lewis Burdick and Corliss Fitz Randolph. The American Sabbath Tract Society, Plainfield, N. J.

THE CLASS WAR IN HEAVEN. By Luke. Richard G. Badger, Boston.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: HOW WE USE AND CONTROL IT. By George C. Wood and Harry A. Carpenter. Allyn & Bacon, New York. \$1.80.

THE IDEALS AND FOLLIES OF BUSINESS. By William Feather. The William Feather Company, Cleveland.

GRAMMAR AT WORK. By Jessie L. Wheeler. Allyn & Bacon, New York. \$1.

FEDERAL AND STATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. By William A. Cook. The Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$2.75.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. By Ellsworth Collings. The Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$2.75.

MARTIN'S ADVENTURE. By Cynthia Asquith. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$1.75.

THE MERRY MERRY CUCKOO. By Jeannette Marks. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$2.

THE UNDETERATED. By Gerald W. Johnson. Minton, Balch & Co., New York. \$1.50.

THE MYTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL. By Charles W. Wood. The John Day Company, New York. \$2.50.

PRINCIPLES OF LABOR LEGISLATION. By John R. Commons and John B. Andrews. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$3.

PLANNING YOUR PARTY. By Emily Rose Burt. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$2.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES. Edited by Ralph G. Hurlin and William A. Berridge. The Russell Sage Foundation, New York. \$2.50.

THE IDEA OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. By Charles W. Pipkin. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50.

FARMERS OF FORTY CENTURIES. By F. H. King. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$3.50.

BAHA'I YEAR BOOK, 1925-1926. The Baha'i Publishing Company, New York. \$1.

THE PATH OF LEARNING. By Henry W. Holmes and Burton P. Fowler. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

DISCOVERING JESUS. By William G. Ballantine. The Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$1.

THE GOSPEL OF OPPORTUNITY. By Charles E. Schofield. The Abingdon Press, New York. \$1.25.

CAN THE CHURCHES UNITE? A SYMPOSIUM. Published under the Auspices of the World Conference on Faith and Order. The Century Company, New York. \$1.25.

THE LAST OF THE GNOSTIC MASTERS. By Thomas Sawyer Spivey. Published and Distributed by Thomas Sawyer Spivey, Beverly Hills, Cal. \$2.50.

AMERICAN ORATIONS. Studies in American Political History. 2 vols. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

New Oxford Books

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