

offensive action" (p. 40); we desire to liberate "only other people's subject nationalities" (p. 56); and the "civilizing" mission of colonial powers means only the conversion of the natives into conscript soldiers (p. 48). Next Mr. Dickinson inquires who is responsible for wars. The answer is not to be found by naming certain states. We do but confuse our thought by "talking always about States and Countries and Nations, and never about men and women" (p. 61). Within each country, the responsibility rests upon the warlike traditions of the diplomatic class, the professional attitude of military and naval officers, and the pecuniary interest of certain business men, especially armament manufacturers (pp. 63-81). And—upon us! "The whole state of mind of the crowd is one of the fundamental causes of war" (p. 82). Over-educated and under-educated alike, we all fall under the same condemnation. We have no doubt been duped by our governments, but also by our passions (p. 87). Our support can be counted on even for bad wars and pernicious treaties. For such deep-seated maladies, there are but two remedies: first, judicial and administrative machinery, such as has been set up in the League; second, education. Workers for peace must (like H. G. Wells?) "rewrite the history and politics of the past and the present in the light of the international ideal" (p. 107). Such is Mr. Dickinson's message—a message written with the fervor of an Old-Testament prophet. Occasionally its generalizations are too sweeping, its denunciations too unsparing. The reviewer disagrees with much of what the author writes, and yet recommends the book, as a purgative for cant.

One of the most prolific causes of international strife is selected for special study by Mr. Leonard Woolf, in his handbook on *Economic Imperialism* (Harcourt, Brace and Howe, N. Y., 1920; 111 pp.). The idea is brilliant. An analysis of imperialism, supplementing and correcting Mr. J. A. Hobson's now rather antiquated study, is sorely needed. Mr. Woolf's contribution merits a warm welcome. It is incisive, vigorous, and generally well-informed. But it does not measure up to the author's opportunity or to the public's need. Writing with a bludgeon for a pen, he alienates the sympathetic critic and would certainly antagonize rather than persuade the unsympathetic. At the outset, he curtly dismisses all altruistic motives for imperialism with a blunt negation: "No European State ever conquered or acquired control over any African or Asiatic territory or people in order to confer upon that people the blessings of European rule" (p. 116). Other motives, as well, he minimizes, until little is left besides naked capitalistic greed. The economic motive of rapacious exploitation is ex-

aggregated all through the narrative of imperialistic aggressions in Africa and Asia. And yet, strangely enough, the author fails to give an adequate explanation of this one motive, which he so much overestimates. Nor does he tell, or attempt to tell, the whole story; he deals only with Africa and China, whereas imperialism is worldwide. In even a rough sketch such as this, one would expect to find at least the bare outlines of the Bagdad Railway project, if not of Persia's strangulation, or of imperialism in the Pacific islands, or of incipient American imperialism in the Caribbean. The book, however, is not too short to contain a prescription of remedies (chapter IV). In the Covenant of the League of Nations Mr. Woolf finds the needed nostrum, despite the fact that—paradoxically—this Covenant “was adopted by capitalist imperialist statesmen who desired to cloak a policy of capitalistic imperialistic annexations” (p. 107). The League should honestly apply the Covenant, confer on itself a “mandate” for China, return to the Chinese “all the railways and economic concessions extorted from them” and all territory taken from them in the last five decades, really open the “Open Door”, assist in the financial and economic rehabilitation of China (p. 109). In Africa, the land should be returned to the natives, compulsory labor abolished, education diffused, and self-government introduced gradually (pp. 110-111). There is much good sense in the program, though it is incomplete and perhaps a bit Utopian, at least for the present day.

That it is possible to prove anything by statistics, Mr. Vyvyan Ashleigh Lyons amply but unwittingly demonstrates in a slender volume bearing the interesting title *Wages and Empire* (London, Longmans, Green and Company, 1920; 96 pp.). The title itself is intriguing. It is the best thing about the book. Certainly few subjects would better repay study than the connection between wages and imperial dominion. Mr. Lyons, however, is one of those hardy adventurers who boldly dare where economists fear to tread. Armed with the shield of faith (in natural science), with the breastplate of self-confident arithmetic, and with Mulhall's dictionary of statistics for a sword, he goes forth to battle. Gallantly he casts his gauntlet in the face of the social sciences. “No enlightenment”, he declares, “as to the causes which determine wages is to be had from the political economy books” (p. 5). Instead, he turns to chemistry. The supply of chemical ingredients necessary for human food is adequate to support fourteen million people on each square mile of the earth's surface (p. 11). Hence, our problem is “merely” to set vegetable organisms at work converting these ingredients into food. Unfortunately, at least a third of the dry