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## From Charlemagne to Hitler

*A SHORT HISTORY OF GERMANY.*  
By S. H. Steinberg. New York: The  
Macmillan Company. 1945. 285 pp.  
\$3.

Reviewed by GEORGE N. SHUSTER

**D**R. STEINBERG'S outline of German history begins with Charlemagne and ends with Hitler. It is strictly a pedestrian performance, the only bit of first-rate writing being a quotation from Winston Churchill. But those who desire a succinct outline of the events which have affected the German people during more than ten centuries, and who are at the same time willing to make allowance for an author's prejudices, will find the book useful. Dr. Steinberg believes that the Germans have been engaged in an "unending struggle" for a working compromise "between uniformity and disruption"; he is a good European, aware of the need for a satisfactory political organization of the Continent as a whole; and he is appropriately critical of dominant nationalist trends in German thought. On the other hand, he can ride a hobby to death, or at least into the vanes of the windmill with quixotic abandon. For things being as they are it is no doubt inevitable that any history of Germany should be first of all a personal essay.

When medieval Germans thought about government, they had in mind the coöperation of Church and State. Nevertheless the political issue was whether it was possible to subordinate the many feudal dynasties to a central power. Dr. Steinberg manages very well to disentangle the major figures in this struggle from the mass of names which is usually everything the foreign reader is offered. But he is much less able to present the great social and ideological changes which marked the transition of Germany from a tribal confederation to a federation of principalities. As a result one gets a good portrait of Wallenstein, though in miniature, but one sees neither the Reformation nor the effects of the catastrophic Thirty Years' War.

Similarly, there is a good account of the growth of Prussia and the ambitious dynamism of Frederick the Great, but the rise of North German youth against Napoleon is hardly so much as mentioned. Fichte is a mere

name in this book but the stubborn little Prussian monarchs, fighting the old game of family power politics, are all present. Of course in a book of this size and character some things must be left out. But the omissions in this instance leave the German story looking like a chronicle of unenlightened princelings and not like the tragic record of a people which at decisive moments saw its desire for liberation turn not into a morning star but into a dangerous toy balloon.

The best part of the book by all odds is that concerned with Bismarck. Dr. Steinberg deals competently with the "Iron Chancellor's" foreign policy, but he is even more effective in discussing the situation on the home front. I do not believe that there is available in England a better digest of the events of this period, even though the adjectives employed are sometimes more strenuous than apposite. For William II the author has only vilifying epithets. His treatment of the origins of the First World War are, however, reasonably objective. On the other hand, the section devoted to the aftermath of that war and the Weimar Republic is the weakest part of the book.

Dr. Steinberg ends on a note which suggests that eventually all the peoples of Europe may find their appropriate roles in the drama of coöperation which alone can bring peace and well-being to all.

### FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 105

*A cryptogram is written in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer to No. 105 will be found in the next issue.*

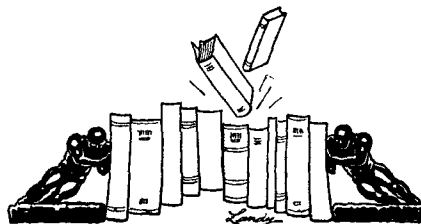
FA BAHCLBCKPMGW, GK DBN  
EWOD WKWEAOGO, GO  
OGFHEA W JKWLJ RCM  
NSDM WLDGKT DBN  
TMNWDNOD WFCZKD CR  
XNKCF RMCF WKA GKLGPNKD  
CR EGRN.

—T. L. EGLBDNKYNMT.

### Answer to Literary Crypt No. 104

A SOFT BLENDING OF DULCET  
INSTRUMENTS CAME CHARM-  
INGLY; AND THEN A HYMN.

—KEATS—ENDYMION.



## A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF GERMANY

(Continued from page 9)

in which, after he had unified the Reich, he skillfully used the promise of economic benefit to harness both capital and labor into an all-German economic organization on the Prussian model, how with him the deliberate efforts began to unify the Germans not only politically but to unite them in common beliefs. But it is necessary to say a little more about the process by which the views on political and moral questions of which he was the great representative, gradually gained mastery over the minds of the Germans.

The point which I want particularly to stress, and which seems to emerge so clearly from the history of this period, is the predominant role which the German historians played by their efforts to justify and defend Bismarck and how in this way they spread the veneration of the power-state and the expansionist ideas characteristic of modern Germany. Nobody saw that more clearly than the great English historian Lord Acton, who knew Germany as well as his own country and who as early as 1886 could speak of "that garrison of distinguished historians who prepared the Prussian hegemony together with their own and now hold Berlin like a fortress," a group "almost entirely given to maxims which it has cost the world so much effort to reverse." And it was the same Lord Acton who in spite of his admiration for much in Germany was able to foresee fifty years ago that "the tremendous power built up by very able minds, chiefly in Berlin, was the greatest danger that remains to be encountered by the Anglo-Saxon race."

\* \* \*

These glances at history are necessary if we are to appreciate the specially important task that will fall to the historians and teachers of history in the reëducation of the Germans. They are, of course, not the only ones who will have to work for this end, but their position is so important that it will be justified if, turning now to the practical problem, we use the term "historian" for all those students and writers in the humanities who formulate the ideas which in the long run govern society.

Our problem is how we can effectively assist those among these men in Germany on whose influence we must mainly base our hopes for a better future Germany. That they will need assistance, material and even more moral assistance, is certain. These isolated men will, in the first instance, need the assurance that they are not

moral outcasts but that they are striving for the same ends as many men all over the world. While there are many German scholars with whom we neither wish nor ought ever again to have any commerce, it would be fatal to extend such ostracism to all, including those whom we should wish to help. But in a situation where one must feel doubts about everybody except the few of whom one has personal knowledge, the difficulty of distinguishing the records of the various persons might produce the same result unless deliberate efforts are made to facilitate contacts. If these men are to be again made active members of the community of Western civilization, they will soon have to be given an opportunity for exchanging opinions, for obtaining books and periodicals, and even for travel, which will for long be impossible for most Germans.

There is not only the difficulty how to find these individuals. There is the even greater difficulty of how the help can be administered without discrediting them with their own people. On the first point, what is needed is clearly some pooling of the knowledge of individual German scholars possessed by their fellows in the Allied countries. On the second, the main consideration must be that these men ought to be neither expected nor induced to become the tools of the Allied authorities. If these efforts are to have any chance of success there must not be the slightest ground for the suspicion that these men serve merely another power instead of that which their opponents served, and not the slightest doubt that they are committed to anything but the truth. Indeed they will probably need, just as much as positive help, protection against well-meant but ill-directed attempts to use them in the service of the Allied government machinery.

The only practical solution of this problem would seem the creation by independent scholars of an international Academy, or society of elected members, in which those scholars of the Western countries who take an active interest in these problems join with the individual Germans whom they regard as worthy of such support. Such a society could bring together all those on both sides who are willing to serve the two great ideals of truth in history and moral standards in politics, and whose past record justifies the confidence that they will do so.

These general ideas would, of course, have to be more clearly defined, since the aim of the society presupposes

## Comment by Christopher Morley

"Don't miss W. Gaunt's  
*The Aesthetic Adventure...*  
P. 114 of said book started  
me on another in my series  
of Art Episodes (by the  
Snide Professor):—

Ruskin's critique was a sizzler:  
'Mr. Whistler is a chiseler,  
Coxcomb, racketeer, and sniggerer'  
He remarked, in *Fors Clavigera*.  
Whistler, swearing on the Bible,  
Got a farthing's worth of libel.

Ruskin, as he grew more goofy,  
Left the world and lived aloof; he  
Soothed his various ills and aches  
At Coniston, with hills and lakes.  
Weary of the mail's abundance  
He retired from correspondence.\*

If, after crumpets, after tea,  
He fell too deep in reverie  
And sat to dream the dusk in  
The parlor-maid was trained and trim  
Respectful to announce to him:  
'The Sunset, Mr. Ruskin!'

\*This is the exact phrase, in a letter from his secretary which I have above the table in my office: 'Mr. Ruskin has retired from correspondence'."

## Comment by the publishers

*The Aesthetic Adventure*  
by William Gaunt is a witty  
and highly entertaining his-  
tory of the Bohemian move-  
ment in art and writing. It  
may not set every reader to  
writing poetry, but it is sure  
to heighten your enjoyment  
of Oscar Wilde, Whistler,  
Swinburne, Ruskin, George  
Moore, and many other men  
of the period. \$3.00

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- How quinine was saved from practical extinction.
- How this world remedy for malaria developed from the wild and fast-disappearing South American cinchona tree.
- How 60 years of patient trial and error resulted in one of the most skillful scientific cultures in the tropics.
- How two great tropical regions struggled to supply the world with Nature's only provision for the most serious disease on earth.

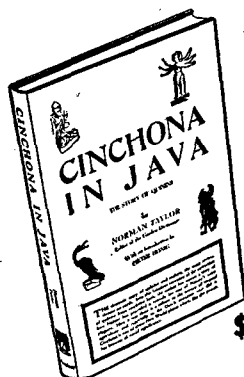
Here is the dramatic history of cinchona from seed bed to harvesting absorbingly told by an authority on tropical economic plants.

Norman Taylor, the author, is editor of "The Garden Dictionary" and Botanical editor of Webster's "New International Dictionary." Veteran of many scientific expeditions, he was formerly an assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden and a curator at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. At present he is Director of the Cinchona Products Institute in New York.

Peter Honig, Dutch scientist with years of experience in the Netherlands Indies, has written the introduction on agriculture in the Indies.

# CINCHONA IN JAVA

BY NORMAN TAYLOR



\$2<sup>50</sup>

**GREENBERG: PUBLISHER**  
400 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

agreement of its members on the general principles of the basic liberalism of Western civilization which it wishes to preserve. To express these principles in a manifesto drawn up for the purpose is scarcely practicable. After much consideration of the various possibilities I feel that the best way of defining that philosophy would be to express it by the names of one or two great men who were its outstanding representatives. And no two men seem to me more clearly to express these ideals, and better to express the particular task of such a society, than the English historian Lord Acton and his French counterpart, Alexis de Tocqueville. Both men represented the same liberal philosophy at its best and combined a passion for truth with a profound respect for the moral forces in history. And while Lord Acton, the Englishman, knew the Germans in their bad and their good sides as well as he knew his fellow-countrymen, the Frenchman de Tocqueville was of course one of the greatest students and admirers of American democracy.

## Look! A Talking Horse

MR. WILMER. By Robert Lawson.  
Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1945.  
218 pp. \$2.

Reviewed by THOMAS SUGRUE

WILLIAM WILMER was a completely undistinguished man until the morning of his twenty-ninth birthday. Then, while proceeding to the office of the Safe, Sane and Colossal Insurance Company, it happened. A horse spoke to him. Later in the day, while he was visiting at the zoo, Toby the lion poured out his grievances to him. Toby had a toothache and the zoo physicians were treating him for everything except what ailed him. Mr. Wilmer passed on Toby's complaint to the Keeper, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Gallagher promptly threw Mr. Wilmer out. But when it turned out that Toby did have a toothache, and in precisely the molar mentioned by Mr. Wilmer, the little insurance clerk was a hero. In company with Director Carrington-Carr and a group of distinguished scientists, he toured the zoo, extracting from each animal the vital statistics of his or her life, while the director checked each and every fact with his ledger.

Next morning Mr. Wilmer awoke to find himself the nation's most famous man. Promptly he was hired as special animal consultant to all the zoos in the country. Mr. Carrington-Carr gave him a fine office, some sound advice, and an introduction to a man at the bank, who agreed to let Mr. Wil-

I do not see how the political ideals of such an international academy could be better expressed than by calling it the Acton-Tocqueville Society. It is to the men and women who know what these names stand for and who are willing to subscribe to the ideals of these two men that such an organization must first appeal.

There is no need at this stage to describe the functions of such a society in detail. There are more tasks than could be discussed in a short article which in the coming years such a voluntary organization of the humanists of the world could accomplish. I do not claim that this kind of organization is necessarily the best. But I am convinced that there is a great problem which needs careful thought and preparation and on which, at present, not enough thinking is done, because it is not a problem which can be solved by governmental activities. It is the independent scholars and thinkers who must take the initiative; and the time is now short if a great opportunity is not to be missed.

mer keep his money there—eighty thousand dollars had drifted in during the first twenty-four hours. Soon Miss Sweeney, the red-haired girl who formerly had made his days at the insurance company bearable by smiling at him in the morning, was his secretary. Together they interviewed the zoo animals, particularly Lucy, the elephant, who was amiable and liked nothing better than a spot of conversation. Mr. Wilmer went on the radio with his new friends, though Toby was bored when he found that he could not nip at the crooners. Finally Mr. Wilmer bought a farm for his new friends and his new wife, who turned out to be, naturally, Miss Sweeney. There they lived happily, with Lucy doing most of the farm chores and Walter, the sea lion, blowing mess call and taps on his cornet.

There is little a reviewer can say about the work of Robert Lawson either by way of explanation or acclaim. His illustrations are so apt and his humor is so natural that to recommend his latest work to those who have read his previous volumes is like telling a farm boy that his mother's apple pie is good eating. As for those who through some misfortune have not become acquainted with the sage of Rabbit Hill, they probably will not believe that anything so delightful exists as the combination of Mr. Lawson's painting and prose. If they want proof, let them ask their children, or let them ask Mr. Wilmer, who has it straight from the animals.