

BOOKS FOR XMAS OF ALL VARIETIES

From Irving Cobb to Bernhardi. Romance, Drama, Travel, Science and Philosophy in the New Books of This Winter.

The first thing that strikes the eye of the reader who begins at the beginning of Irving Cobb's new book, "Europe Revised" (George H. Doran, New York), after skimming has over the title page, is a footnote entitled: "To my small daughter, Ned, on the next page, another footnote." "Note," perhaps they might be termed.

The author of "Back Home" has started out even earlier than these, note pages, however, to create a favorable impression on his readers. He—or perhaps it was the George H. Doran Company—hit upon the happy idea of running the following across the top of the cover: "This is not a war book."

It is difficult to pick out of "Europe Revised" any special chapter to say it is the best thing in the book. The volume consists of chapters, each a story in itself. There are 47 pages. Laughs may be found at the rate of one each on a very small number of these pages. On the other hand laughs may be found in greater abundance in many several of the chapters.

General von Bernhardi deplores peace. It is to him a "weakly vision." He believes that "the physical and moral health of a nation depend on its martial spirit." That the present war, foreshadowed throughout the book, though it was written in 1911, is not defensive is the author's avowed admission. "Triple Alliance," he says, "is purely defensive. It is a little later, 'Neither Austria nor Italy is bound to support us.'"

Stories From The Forum

A Militarist on War-making

Even more confessedly bellicose than his "Germany and the Next War" is the new volume, "How Germany Makes War" (George Doran Company, New York), by General Friedrich von Bernhardi, a confidential advisor to the German Emperor, who is suspected of holding views representative of the militarist mind in the German Empire. Few there will be who can read the book and still adhere to the belief that Germany, a peace-seeking State, was forced into the present European war.

A tone of steadfast faith in the sanctity of the entire business of war-making, a calm certainty in the right and the wisdom of it permeates the book. It leaves an impression that the author's belief in the good of war is ingrained to the depths of his soul; that war as a creed is so obviously proper as to defy dispute.

After the "Author's Introduction," four pages which pitch a tone for what is to follow, the volume sketches the business of war with a broad, unhampered hand, without describing or furthering it in detail. The strategy of large operations is discussed in "The Secret of Modern War." The chapter "Armies of Masses" details the changes which confront commanders of large bodies of troops. Perhaps the most interesting chapter, dealing with modern arms and appliances, explaining and analyzing the 21-centimeter howitzers, field artillery and aircraft. The author reveals no military secrets, however. He is writing of the caterpillar feet of the heavy guns as "contrivances by which the guns can traverse soft ground and marshy meadows" without describing or furthering it in detail.

Arnold Bennett's Case for England. Bennett's new book, "The Case for England" (George H. Doran, New York), is a pleasingly readable volume. It is a plea for the British Empire, written in a clear, direct, and convincing manner. Bennett, who has been in the front lines of the struggle, writes with authority and insight.

Ralph Connor's Northwest Again. Again returning to his favorite Canadian Northwest and its picturesque mounted folk is his latest romance, "The Northwest Again" (George H. Doran Company, New York), a thrilling tale that surpasses "Corporal Cameron" and "The Big Boy" in its vividness and its understanding of the life of the frontier.

John Hay, Author and Statesman. The sympathetic biography of "John Hay," Author and Statesman (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York), by Lorenzo Sears, will undoubtedly help to keep alive the memory of that gifted statesman. Sears has written with insight and understanding of Hay's life and his role in American history.

Modern Alchemy. From Parsnlowe to Sir William Ramsay, alchemy is a longer way to get a way which leads from Tipperary to the bewitched young man who wants to get rich, says H. Stanley Redgrove, B. Sc., in his new book, "Modern Alchemy" (George H. Doran Company, New York). The book shows wide research into the principles of alchemy and its modern status.

A Wanderer's Trail. A more entertaining and instructive volume of reading would be hard to find than "A Wanderer's Trail" by A. L. Ridger (Henry Holt, N. Y.), who gives a faithful record of his travels in many lands. The book is made up of 40 pages of the most interesting reading material imaginable.

Bryce vs. Shaw. When Mr. Shaw seems to have settled the question of the war for many minds, Mr. Bryce seems to have taken an antidote in a dignified and impressive work, "Neutral States and the War" (Macmillan, New York). The author's arguments are based on a sound knowledge of international law.

The Way of the Strong. It is a book that will bring your teeth together in a sharp click—a book that tells you the story of a man as abnormal in business as in love. Price \$1.25.

JOHN EIGHTEEN SCHOOLMASTER

A GRIPPING STORY OF LOVE, MYSTERY AND KIDNAPING

By CLAVER MORRIS

Arthur, I shall get tired of idling, wasting my life—I've had the boy to look after so far; but now he is at school I am just an idle woman.

Lord Arthur rose to his feet. "I can't not talk out here, Denham," he said, "going to the smoking room. Come to me here on some pretext or other—bring me a drink and some biscuits—bring the photograph with you—I'd like to have a look at it."

"Where does she live?" "In London."

Denham looked at Lord Arthur's portrait and a minute later Lord Arthur followed him into the house and made his way to the smoking room.

"Thank you," said Lord Arthur, handing the portrait back to Denham. "Now, then, will you please tell me why Mrs. Travers is being watched?"

"You see, it's like this, Guy," said Lord Arthur, seating himself in a chair by the boy's bedside.

"I see," said Guy. "You're not to be too sure of your own life."

"I'm not," said Guy. "I'm just a boy."

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Horns of Dilemma

Inception of the struggle of the American woman for her independence is the theme of "Selma" (D. Appleton & Co.), George Madden Martin's latest contribution to fiction of the day.

Selma seeks to find another solution of her problem, both economic and marital. She finds none for either, and the reader is left with that distressing lack of satisfaction, in spite of the fact that the author so warmly him at the outset.

"Selma" adds little illumination to problems of the day for women.

Placing Max Reinhardt. One of the few writers of books about the theatre who have gained by the war is Huntley Carter, and that is because in "The Theatre of Max Reinhardt" (Mitchell Kennerly, New York), he has written about a man who expects to carry to America this winter an art that is impossible in Europe just now.

Buffalo Bill and the Overland Trail. An inspiring, wonderful story of the adventures of a boy during those perilous and exciting times when Buffalo Bill began his adventurous career that has indelibly linked his picturesque figure with the opening of the West to civilization.

The Cuckoo Clock. This famous book is one of the most delightful children's stories ever written.

Betty's Christmas. A beautiful story of a girl who is stranded in a remote corner of the world during the Christmas season.

The Princess and the Goblin. A classic story of a young girl who saves the world from a wicked goblin.

The Cuckoo Clock. A delightful story of a cuckoo clock that comes to life.

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FIGHTING IN FLANDERS

By E. ALEXANDER POWELL

The account by an eyewitness of every phase of the great drama in Belgium culminating in the fall of Antwerp. Profusely illustrated from photographs.

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THE MARY FRANCES BOOKS—THE BEST GIFT FOR ANY LITTLE GIRL

The Mary Frances Housekeeper. A delightful story of a young girl who helps her mother in her household duties.

The Mary Frances Sewing Book. A book that teaches a young girl how to sew and make beautiful garments.

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THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE

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