

THE BOOK PAGE

NEWS OF NEW BOOKS, WRITERS AND MAGAZINES.

GERMANY, VERY NEAR NERVOUS BREAKDOWN IS BUOYED BY HOPE

Carl Ackerman Concludes No
One Can Tell When Crash
Will Come.

"When Americans ask, 'How long can Germany hold out?' says Carl Ackerman, author of 'Germany, the Next Republic?' (just published by the George H. Doran company), 'I reply, 'As long as the German government can satisfy the vanity and stimulate the nerves of the people, and as long as the people believe the government to be the nation's thinking.'"

Ackerman is the United Press correspondent who returned from Germany with the Gerard party after two years in Berlin, during which, according to the New York Times, he acquired what is "probably a greater knowledge of conditions in Germany and Austria than is possible by any other American except Gerard."

No One Knows
"How long a time that will be no one can say. It was formerly believed that whenever a nation reached the limit which Germany has reached it would crumple up. But Germany fails to crumple. Instead of breaking up, she fights harder and more desperately. Why can she do this? The answer is simple. Because the German people believe in their government and the government knows that as long as it can convince the people that it is winning the war, the people will fight."

"Germany is today in the position of a man on the verge of a nervous breakdown; in the position of a man who is undernourished, who is depressed, who is weighed down by colossal burdens, who is brooding over the loss of friends and relatives, but of a man who feels that his future health and happiness depend upon his ability to hold out until the crisis passes."

"If a physician were called in to prescribe for such a patient, his first act would be to give him a stimulant. This man's hope, to make him believe that if he would only 'hold out,' he would pass the crisis successfully. But no physician could say that his patient could stand it for one week, a month or a year more. The doctor would have to gamble upon that man's nerves. He would have to stimulate him daily, perhaps hourly."

Nervous Breakdown
"So it is with the German nation. The country is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Men and women, business men and generals, long ago lost their patience. They are undernourished. They are depressed, distressed, suffering and anxious for peace. It is as true of the Hamburg-American Line directors as it is true of the officers at the front."

"There have been more cases of nervous breakdown among the people during the last year than at any time in Germany's history. There have been so many suicides that the newspapers are forbidden to publish them. There have been so many losses on the battlefields that every family has been affected not once, but two, three and four times. Dance halls have been closed. Cafes and hotels must stop serving meals by 11 o'clock. Theaters are presenting the most sullen plays. Rumors spread like prairie fires. One day Hindenburg is dead. Two days later he is alive again."

Hope Springs Eternal
"But the Kaiser has studied his war psychology. He knows his people know that one thing keeps the German people fighting—their hope of ultimate victory; their belief that they have already won. The Kaiser knows that if the public mind is stimulated from day to day by new victories, by reports of many prisoners, of new territory gained, of new successes, that he will be able to continue fighting."

"So the Kaiser gambles from day to day with his people's nerves. For two years he has done this, and for two years he has been supported by a 12,000,000 man power and a large army of workers and women at home. The Kaiser believes he can gamble for a long time yet with his people."

"Just as it is impossible for a physician to say how long his patient can be stimulated without breaking down, so it is impossible for an observer in Germany to say how long it will be before the break-up comes in Germany."

Soldier-Making Is Subject of Books

Two books rushed to printing to fill present needs are "The Universal Drill Manual," by Captain E. J. Robbins, and "The Home Guard Manual," by Lieutenant Colonel T. F. Donovan and Captain Charles J. Dieges of the United States army. The books are published by the Sherwood company, New York.

"The Drill Manual" is a digest of five government books on the subject of drilling, especially adapted for use of the recruit, giving all necessary and important points in a pocket edition. One dollar, net.

"The Home Guard Manual" covers important points necessary for soldier-citizens to know, being a digest of government publications on infantry drill, field service regulations and interior guard duty. The book is also suitable for use in public schools having military training, and for the Boy Scouts. Fifty cents, net.

Here's Book Hero Who Cannot Marry

Arthur B. Reeve, whose new book of detective stories, "The Treasure Train," was published a few days ago, said recently that he can never allow his famous scientific detective, Craig Kennedy, to get married, or the many readers who follow his adventures would lose interest in him. This he has discovered from his correspondence. Once he received a letter from a man in Arizona, who had read one of Reeve's stories in which Craig Kennedy was apparently going fond of a female society, begging him earnestly not to let Kennedy "get mixed up with women."

Mark Twain Tells How He Happened To Be a Journalist

Among the interesting stories about Mark Twain, unearthed by Albert Bigelow Paine, his biographer, is one relating to Twain's own words how he started on a writing career. The first paragraph which Mark Twain wrote when he began his editorial duties with the Virginia City Enterprise was this: "A beautiful sunset made Beranger a poet, a mother's kiss made Benjamin West an artist, and it is a week makes us a journalist."

Another story tells of a later joke. One day Mark Twain was being shaved by a very talkative barber, and was forced to listen to many of the barber's anecdotes.

Stopping to stop his razor, and prepared, brush in hand, to commence again, the barber said: "Shall I go over it again?"

"No, thanks," drawled Mark. "It's hardly necessary. I think I can remember every word."

Work as usual.
News dispatches that on account of the short wool crop men may be wearing kilts next summer. Seems to be getting down to the bare facts in the case.

In 1920: Pershing for President.
Chances are that at sight of the "Sammys" the Germans will develop a severe case of the "Willis's."

The small boy must feel entirely subdued by this invasion of school teachers.
My friend has a new baby. And a new roadster, and his wife doesn't love him now. Because the other night when the baby cried My friend tossed in his sleep and muttered dreamily, "Step on 'er tail."

In attempting to stage a comeback in this progressive era, old China must have got the wrong quena.
Brete Harte was right.

War news from Paris refers to operations on the California plain-father and his tales of the golden days of '49.

Domestic tragedy wherein the husband kills his wife and himself would not be so bad if he would kill himself first.

Hello! The telephone girls are not going to strike.
The Washington, D. C., policeman bitten by a militant suffragette is doubtless taking the Pasteur treatment.

Though Mary Austin's latest novel is "The Ford," it is in no sense a joke.
Vive l'amerique!

Reporter Writes of War's Humanities

"Confessions of a War Correspondent," a new book by William G. Shepherd, is a new publication by the Harpers. It deals with the human side of the war, the personal lives and the personal things of the great conflict.

Mr. Shepherd speaks with authority; he was the first American reporter permitted at the British front in France, he covered the fall of Antwerp for the United Press; he is the only newspaper man who saw the first battle of Ypres, and he has been at the German, Austrian and Italian fronts, and he reported the retreat of the Hun. He tells the truth about the war war correspondents now get news.

The newspaper men, he says, are shown only what the authorities wish them to see. If a reporter gets on the blackbooks by trickery, his future as a correspondent is over. This has not happened to Mr. Shepherd. He has many exciting stories to tell of personal dangers and observations in many armies.

Mr. Shepherd has much to say of the heroic side of war, but he has seen, too, things that are worse than slaughter—a mental and moral disintegration that overtakes many soldiers.

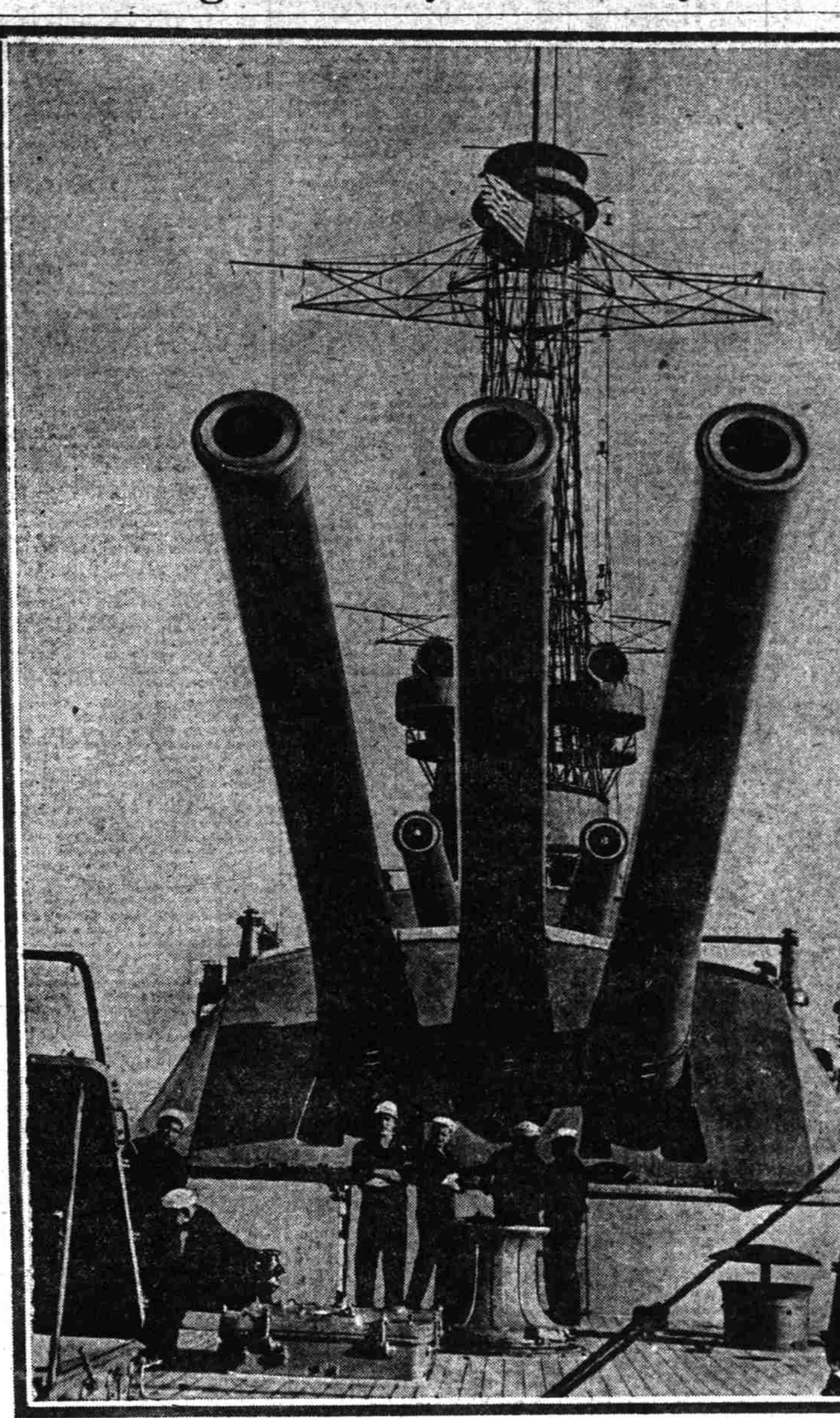
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No series of events in the history of our race is more dramatic, more inspiring, or more dramatic, than the creation of the beautiful and fertile oasis of the Imperial valley in the arid desert area of the Salton sink, the partial transformation of this cultivated valley into a great inland sea by the furious impetus of a runaway river; the building out of the flood by the courage and energy of a single man, and the final development of the valley into one of the richest agricultural areas in the world.

When the Colorado river broke from its bounds a blind cosmic force seemed to be loosed, bent only on destruction. The river was angry, but subdued by a vast inland sea was created, now viewed each year by thousands of passengers on the Southern Pacific.

Mr. Kenyon tells the story of the run away Colorado and the Salton sea, simply and well.

Three Big Reasons for an Early Peace



A "close-up" of a 14-inch gun battery on the U. S. S. Oklahoma. When they get into action their bark echoes across the world.

Banks of Colne Is Phillipotts Latest

The Banks of Colne.—By Eden Phillipotts. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50 net. The plot and characters of Mr. Phillipotts' new novel "The Banks of Colne," are drawn from two interesting industries of the Devonshire country—a great flower nursery and landscape gardening concern, and the oyster fisheries on the coast.

The story develops in a leisurely way with the descriptions of nature which have characterized all of Mr. Phillipotts' writings. The people are real. They have grown up out of the soil on which they play out their little drama, and the natural settings seem to envelope and color their souls. This quality is partly a result of Mr. Phillipotts' way of working. He goes to the locality which is to be the scene of his story, and there he lives among the people, getting to know them intimately and discovering the fundamental relations between them and the background.

From the very start "The Banks of Colne" is filled with unusual situations, and though the climax comes as a startling surprise, it is both dramatic and natural, the inevitable result of evil doing in one case and a wrong judgment in a great crisis of love and devotion in the other.

Treats of Spiritual
Force on Earth
THE SILENT HOUR, by Charlotte Bondi and Hopkins. New York. \$1.50 net.

A cursory glance through this volume would tend to convince the reader that it is a treatise on Christian Science, or the "silent hour." The message of the book is that "the power of man is limitless, reaching up to the throne of God himself through the spiritual communion of the 'silent hour.' It is the message of the book. Its argument is that 'before anything desired can manifest itself in the physical form on earth, it must be created in the realm of spirit. It must be created by thought, and it is then ready to be manifested in the material form.'"

"It's attainable the thing desired, the seeker must do his own part in this act of creation."

THE WAY TO SALUTE When Longfellow Introduced Winter

Because of the death this week of William Winter, America's leading dramatic critic, at the age of 81 years, there is special interest in a letter by Henry W. Longfellow to Harper & Bros., the publishers.

This letter just made public by the publishing house, in connection with the celebration of its centennial, was by way of introducing young Winter to the Harpers, after they had published in Harper's Magazine Longfellow's poems, "Morituri Salutamus" and "Keramos," for which they paid him \$1000 each.

Notice particularly the "palm to the left" feature. The German salute calls for the palm to the right. Don't do it.

Bit of a Book on
The Emerald Isle
A very apropos new title at the public library belongs to an emerald green volume called "My Little Farm."

The author, "Pat," says that he has lived the life of London and died the death of Ireland, but never filled any of the demands of a much broader knowledge as the conduct of a once neglected little farm on the west coast of Ireland. With his experience as a farmer is blended his opinion on the Irish peasantry. He wishes to help the peasants to spare not their faults, though showing plainly that their worst characteristics are not inherent but imposed upon them. There are chapters on farming with a pen, cows and men, calves and statestmen, paganism in agriculture and farming as a profession. However, farming is not the final motive of the book, for as the author says, "Humility is more to me than vegetables," and his interest centers especially on the education of the Irish peasantry as the solution of most of the Irish problems.

Youth Is Hope of the World
"You Are the Hope of the World" is the title of a new book by Hermann Hagedorn which is announced for immediate publication. The volume is an appeal to the girls and boys of America, pointing out that in view of the slaughter of the youth of Europe, they are largely the hope of the world in the years to come and indicating the ideals by which they should be guided in the face of this responsibility.

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Novelist Finds No Kind Word to Say For Los Angeles

"The Ford," Mary Austin's latest novel, just published by Houghton Mifflin company, is largely based on personal experience, and in a letter to her publishers Mrs. Austin says: "The book records incidents in my own life in the struggle for the waters of Owens river, which the City of Los Angeles stole from us. That was a very wicked episode and I did not begin to do justice to the chicanery of Los Angeles. I am secure the surplus rights of the river in just such fashion as I have described Anne and Kenneth Brent doing in the book."

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Among the books recently added to the Central library are the following:
Melville—Henry Dumas, Viscount Melville, by J. A. Lovat-Fraser. 1916.
Books in Foreign Languages
Ansenberger—Die Kreusschreiber.
Barbouse—Le Feu.
Le Bras—Pauze d'Islande.
Description and Travel
Edwards—Vanished Towers and Chimes of Flanders. 1916.
Price—Spanish Mission Churches of New Mexico. 1915.

Fine Arts
Beethoven—Collection of Favorite Original Piano-forte Compositions.
Buck, comp.—Oxford Song Book. 1916.
Caneblu—Blue-China Book. 1916.
Collins—The Camera Man. 1916.
Drey—Humble Annals of a Back Yard. 1916.
Eberlein & McClure—Fractious Book of Early American Arts and Crafts. 1916.
Grove—Listening to Music. 1916.
Hamlin—Enjoyment of Architecture. 1916.
List—Collection of Selected Original Piano-forte Compositions.
Nathan Montague—Glinka. 1916. Mousmoussky.
Moser—Collection of Favorite Original Piano-forte Compositions.
Rubinstein—Collection of Selected Original Piano-forte Compositions.
Schubert—Collection of Favorite Original Piano-forte Compositions.

Sharp, comp.—Folk-Songs (various). 2v. in one.
Folk-Songs from Somerset. 2v. in 1.
Wilder—Merrill, the Story of His Life as Man and Artist. 2v. 1908.

History
Barker—Red Cross in France. 1916.
Madelin—French Revolution. 1916.
Wheeler—Stirring Deeds of Britain's Sea Dogs in the Great War. 1916.

Laurels
Kelley—Workmanship in Words. 1917.
Ward—What Is English? 1917.

Bates—Fairy Gold. 1916.
Garmen—April Airs; a book of New England lyrics. 1916.
Davies—Collected Poems. 1916.
Davies—Life of Algonquin Charles Swinburne. 1917.
Masfield—Salt-Water Poems and Ballads. 1916.
Thompson—French Portraits. 1913.
Wilde—Selected Poems. 1914.

Religion
Chaplin—History of the Bible. 1912.
Kest—Social Teachings of the Prophets and Jesus. 1917.
Mahab—The Arkhe volume. 1913.

Science
Jones & Woodward—Going About the Country With Your Eyes Open. 1911.

Sociology
Craig—Credit, Insurance, Brokerage. 1916.
Kunkel—Living System in Theory and Practice. 1913.
Lynch—Study in Living Conditions of Self-Supporting Women in New York City. 1915.
Weyl—American Policies. 1917.

Useful Arts
Bailey—Wooden Shipbuilding. 1917.
Menden—Changes in the Food Supply and Their Relation to Nutrition. 1916.
Fussey—Syphilis as a Modern Problem. 1915.

Recreation
Brown—Belgian Medal, Letter to a Friend, and Christian Remedy. 1916.
Luck—Life of Little Shady and Their Applications. 1916.
Joullin—Classified Directory of Portland and Vicinity. 1917.
Margaret—Guide to the Arnold Arboretum. 1915.

Tells How She Did
Her Bit for Ireland
Doing My Bit for Ireland, by Margaret Shindler. The Century Company, New York. \$1.00 net.

A spirited narrative of the recent Irish revolution. The author was in the midst of what she writes about; she was wounded three times and was a comrade in arms and in council of the revolutionary bodies. The most national gesture of a great race stand out vividly on the pages of the book—Jo. Connelly, Padric Pearse, Joseph Plunkett, Thomas McDonagh, the Countess Markievicz and others.

"Doing My Bit for Ireland" is a revelation of the mind and spirit of the Irish revolutionists.

The concluding pages of "Doing My Bit for Ireland" contain a collection of the songs sung by the revolutionists, some of them new, all of them full of the swinging poetry of the movement which invoked them.

Phyllis Bottome Is Short Story Writer

THE DERELICT, by Phyllis Bottome. The Century Company, New York. \$1.35 net.

The popular English woman, author of "The Dark Tower," a novel much discussed last year, as a short story writer has just a great appeal in "The Derelict," recently concluded in magazine installments, is the longest of a number of bright tales.

Included in the book are: "The Derelict," "The Liqueur Glass," "Mademoiselle l'Anglaise," "An Awkward Turn," "The Siren's Lale," "Ironstone," "The Face," "Brother Leo."

Prodigal!
From the New Republic
Professors have a tendency to acidity. One wrote once upon a "theme," "Your vocabulary is mean and poor, but amply sufficient for the expression of your ideas." To another a proud young remarker, "I have spent 10 years upon my education." "Prodigal!" was the reply.

Woman Writes for Boys
Johnston Grosvenor, author of the recently-published book for boys "Strange Stories of the Great Valley," says that her reason for dropping her more feminine first name from the title pages of her books is because she has found that boys do not like too much teaching by women. "They do not choose women's books first," she says. "For that reason I use the impersonal part of my name. Also, I think it brings me a franker criticism from editors whom I never see."

IN THE NEW MAGAZINES

The July Scribner makes a strong appeal to patriotism with its silhouette of a cavalier on the cover, Yohn's beautiful painting reproduced in color, "Our All for Democracy," for the frontispiece, four articles on subjects related to the war, Violet Oakley's decorations, "The Spirit of the World to Day," in The Field of Art, and two stories with the war as a background. A complete account of what has happened in Russia before and during the revolution is given by Raymond Redoubt (Captain X), "Russia in Revolution," the best for month's study. Ernest Pixotto, artist and author, tells of "Special Service for Artists in War Time." In France they have done wonderful things in the way of fooling the enemy by painting all sorts of "fakes"—guns, trees, even wagon roads. They have even made up of dummy corpses for spy purposes.

Major Merch B. Stewart, U. S. A., senior instructor of the first provisional training regiment (New England) at Plattsburg for the training of officers, and of the kind of service we may expect from them. There are numerous other stories, features and pictures.

July North American Review

"America, too, proud to fight!" is the satisfying slogan with which Colonel George Harvey concludes his searching editorial comment on our war problems in the July North American Review—a phrase which pointedly illustrates the enormous significance of that seemingly enormous instrument of expression, the comrade. Colonel Harvey's editorials in this issue deal chiefly with what he calls "Our Most Pressing Need." This need, he says, is "Cocaine and Cocaineism," and he asks the heart probing question: "Are we, all of us, doing our part in helping to win the war?"

The leading contribution in this issue is an authoritative discussion of "The War and National Debt," by H. J. Jennings, the distinguished English economist.

World's Work for July

The true story of the execution of Miss Edith Cavell is told by Dr. Vernon Kellogg of the commission for the relief of Belgium, in the World's Work for July. In the same article, "What Mr. Hoover Said to Lloyd George," Dr. Kellogg also gives Mr. Hoover's order of the day in the conversation that made possible the work of the commission for the relief of Belgium.

In Petrograd During the Seven Days by Arno Dosch-Fleisner, formerly of Portland, is a picture of the street scenes during the historic week of the revolution, with interviews with some of the leaders obtained while the revolution was in progress.

The life story of Sims, the Canadian-born commander of our fleet in European waters and of the Pacific, the lad born in poverty in Missouri who has risen to be America's ranking fighting general, is told in two articles.

There are other interesting and instructive articles.

Seven Arts for July

The July number of The Seven Arts contains a number of important features relating to the war. First of these is "The Shadow in the White House," by James Oppenheim, a dialogue between Woodrow Wilson and the shade of Lincoln. In "Below the Battle" Randolph Bourne analyzes the frame of mind of the typical young educated American of the day in his relation to patriotism and the war. Louis Untermeyer contributes a stirring poem entitled "Out of the Silence." Of "The Improbables," fables by Benjamin De Casseres, two also deal, fantastically with war themes. There are many other good things in the number.

Poetry for July

Every summer Poetry devotes a special section to the poetry of the little tots. In the July number eight little poets, the oldest 10 years old and most of them several years younger, pour forth delicate fancies in cobweb gown. This by Malcolm Edward Erskine is one of them:

It is springtime and there are flowers everywhere—
Even on the tails of the peacock.
The real world, with its many questions, seriously poets will have to look to their laurels!

In the main body of the magazine Vachel Lindsey leads with a group, rather a series of three poems called "For America at War." They are American poems, dealing respectively with the spirit of Pocahontas, Niagara and Mark Twain.

Asia for July

The current number of Asia is a China special number, showing the origin and significance of the complicated counter-currents in China's politics. The real, real, real question of China's position in the world war are clarified by Frederick Moore. Mr. Moore also takes up the recent Japanese protest "The Derelict" recently concluded in magazine installments, is the longest of a number of bright tales.

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FIGHTING PARSON OF 43RD HIGHLANDERS SEES GOOD IN WAR

Should Christians Fight? Yes,
Is Vigorous Answer of
"Ralph Connor."

Major Charles W. Gordon of the Forty-third Cameron Highlanders of Canada, who is better known to the world as Ralph Connor, author of "The Patriot of the Sun Dance Trail," etc., in private life is a Presbyterian clergyman.

As a Christian minister, and Chaplain of the Forty-third Cameronians, he has had to face the contention of pacifists that the destruction of human life is unchristian. In a trenchant letter to the North American Student he answers unhesitatingly in the affirmative the question, "Should a Christian fight?"

"The evolution of Christian civilization," says Major Gordon, "is a long story and a painful one. Like all evolution, it is the story of a fierce struggle between redemptive and destructive forces, and these forces have been embodied in the various peoples who in their day have acted and reacted upon the race."

"The redemptive forces have found expression in those people who have from time to time championed the cause of freedom against tyranny, have contended that not might, but right, should rule nations and individuals, and that the interests of humanity must be considered before those of kings and governments."

Willing to Suffer
"And for these priceless treasures of freedom, right and human worth, the nations, which for the time being held these in higher esteem than safety, ease and peace, have made war, gladly choosing to suffer the loss of all things, even life itself, so these treasures might be preserved for the race."

"For things like these Israel of old waged many and bloody wars. Were they wrong? For freedom, little ancient Greece fought and overthrew the massed might of tyrannous Persia. Did Leonidas sin against God when he, the champion of the rights of a peace-loving and freedom-loving people, gladly chose to suffer the loss of an oriental despot? Should the crown of glory which history has set upon his brow be now replaced by a brand of shame?"

When Saxon churl and Norman noble joined to wrest from the powerful and extraordinarily able King John the great charter, the palladium of liberty, for two of the greatest Christian nations the world has yet known, were they wrong? What