

The volume to which we have just referred leads up to the author's recent one, fresh from the press, *La doctrine pangermaniste* (Paris, Chapelot, 1 fr.), which is a study of the more immediate cause of the war, the development of the idea of the superiority of Germany in the civilization of to-day and the consequences springing therefrom. The spirit of the book is found in the very last lines: "All those who have at heart the progress of civilization are convinced to-day that the destruction of the Pangermanist doctrines is necessary to insure the triumph of liberty over tyranny, respect for the feeble, the preservation of small nations and the victory of right."

Problèmes de politique et finances de guerre (Paris, Félix Alcan, 3 frs. 50) is also a collection of lectures delivered at one of the special schools of Paris,—that of Superior Social Studies. The lecturers were Professor Jèze, Barthélemy and Rist of the Paris Law School, and Professor Rolland of the Nancy Law School. The questions treated have to do with the financial, political, administrative and economic problems brought up for solution by the present struggle. The only one of these lectures touching directly on Germany is the last one, "How Germany Has Maintained its Economic Life During the War," by Professor Rist, who says that the success of her plan depended upon a short and victorious war, while a long and uncertain one may upset all her calculations.

In *D'Agadir à Sarajevo* (Paris, Félix Alcan, 2 frs. 50), the French publicist M. Pierre Albin, who has already published two volumes on Germany, traces in this new one the history of the military and political development of the empire during the past three or four years. All the facts, especially those concerning Germany, which led up to the present catastrophe, are here given in a clear and connected manner. An excellent chronological table at the end of the volume is of great use to the reader. This book is especially valuable in its presentation of the origin, scope and consequences of the various alliances, treaties and *ententes* which have characterized international politics during the past quarter of a century.

La guerre devant le Palais (Paris, Ollendorff, 2 frs.), by M. Gabriel Mourey, conservator of the State Palace at Compiègne, is one of the many admirable monographs on the war which are now beginning to appear in large numbers all over Europe. It is a well-told account, by a practiced writer, of what happened at Compiègne between the beginning of August and the middle of September, 1914, during the on-rush of the Germans from Belgium to Paris. Many curious details are given, all told in a language as delicate and artistic as it is full of feeling and ardent patriotism. Let us hope that the many monographs to come will be modeled after this one.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

SOCRATES: MASTER OF LIFE. By *William Ellery Leonard*. Pages, 118. Cloth, \$1.00.

"Great men taken up in any way," Carlyle assures us, "are profitable company." But Carlyle was sure of his Yea and Nay, and what thoughtful man of the present is? Not long ago, it is true, we could prate of progress, efficiency, and what not? scorning to reply, or replying with a condescending smile, when asked whither we were progressing or for what we were efficient. Now, however, we have been sobered by the catastrophe which overtook the human family a year ago last August, and, like the man who would listen to

reason after he had been knocked down, we are in a receptive state of mind. Everywhere men and women are asking, *cui bono?*

Most opportunely, therefore, appears *Socrates: Master of Life*, by William Ellery Leonard. In this little volume of scarcely more than a hundred pages, issued by the Open Court Publishing Company, the story of Socrates, his times, his life, his ideas, his influences, is told in a manner so simple, so sincere, and yet so graphic, that one is charmed out of the agitated present and led over stretches of space and centuries of time to the "glory that was Greece," and into the presence of Socrates, Master of Life. And it all seems quite natural; the shock is in coming back to the States and to 1915.

"That Socrates was born at Athens in 469 may," as the author says, "be a line of print, a point of departure for a lecture in philosophy, or a vision of life. It is one thing to string together a number of facts like beads on a thread, and many there be of us who know how to do it. It is another thing to weave an appealing story out of the imagination and few of us know the art. And it is yet another thing, and one still more rarely accomplished, to rescue from gluttonous Time an actual figure or period of history and to bring it to us in something of its true proportions and clothed with somewhat of the warmth and intimacy (to borrow three words from William James) characteristic of experiences which we call our own. And just this Professor Leonard succeeds in doing. Neither poet without philosophical insight, nor philosopher without poetic genius, could have written the little volume before us. Combined as they are in the author, the result is a portrait of Socrates whose "moral grandeur still towers over Athens and her shattered temple to rebuke the world."

The book makes no pretensions to original philological discoveries, although it rests evidently upon a first-hand reading, with critical meditation, of the Greek sources. Nor is there any hint that the author intended the chapters devoted to the consideration of Socrates's philosophical significance to be received as a full and final treatment of this large subject. Although offering an original critical interpretation of Socrates's personality and ideas, the author is not technical in his method or treatment. The book is addressed to the thoughtful reader, for whom, as the prefatory note says, Socrates has become "too often but a name or an anecdote." M. C. OTTO,

Mr. Theodore Stanton writes us as follows from Paris:

Your first article in the October *Open Court*, "Victor Hugo's Estimate of Germany," contains two rather important errors, which I have waited, but in vain, for somebody else to correct. In the first paragraph of your introduction to the poet's "Choix entre les deux nations," from his volume, *L'année terrible*, you say that, in his eulogy of Germany, he calls her "the greatest of all nations." This is incorrect, and is based on a wrong translation, found four pages further on, where the first line of Victor Hugo's poem,

"Aucune nation n'est plus grande que toi,"

is given as,

"No nation is so great as thou";

whereas it should read,

"No nation is greater than thou,"

which is quite another thing.