

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

As president of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw has issued an appeal to every national council of women's organizations to exert to the utmost the combined influence of women to put a stop to the war. The Association of Austrian Woman's Clubs (*Bund Oesterreichischer Frauenvereine*) feel that this request would not be made of them if the American women had a correct understanding of the causes of the war, and so while sympathizing earnestly with the desire for peace and hoping that the women of neutral countries will leave no means untried to stop the horrible bloodshed, they are sending out circulars to women of other countries acquainting them with their point of view, and explaining the "threefold covetousness" of the Triple Entente which they regard as the cause that has forced Germans and Austrians to defend their homes and country. Accordingly they replied officially to Dr. Shaw's appeal that "being women of those countries where our husbands, brothers and sons are fighting for the existence or non-existence of our state, for our homes, for their wives and children, a defensive war as there never was and we sincerely hope never shall be again, a war against assassins and their defenders, a war against the enemies of freedom and those who think it fair to support them, we cannot say 'Do not fight!' The only thing we can do, is to try and heal the wounds which men have wrought. When this most lamentable war is over, then will be the time for us women to say that no such war should ever be fought again, murdering men and destroying civilization. But just now in this earnest and terrible time we can only stand by our men who are doing their duty to the utmost, cruel and terrible as it is, and support them in every manner possible."

On another page we publish a translation of a circular addressed to the universities of America and bearing the signatures of Professor Haeckel and Eucken which clearly enunciates the position and views of these leaders in the intellectual life of Germany with regard to the present war. Similar views were also expressed recently in an article by Professor Haeckel in the *Jenaer Volksblatt*, a translation of which appeared in the October number. Suffice it to say that these savants, who had seen in a closer intellectual and spiritual relationship between the Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon peoples invaluable possibilities for civilization and progress and had labored toward that goal, now see in the present war the wreck of their hopes, and lay on England and on an unscrupulous English national egotism, actuated by envy of Germany's progress, the responsibility for bringing on the war.

It is interesting to note the publication in Japan of a small monthly paper entitled *Jimri* (The Rationalist). It has been in existence something over a year and one of the early numbers contains a picture of Ernst Haeckel and an account of his work. The periodical is printed mostly in Japanese but contains also about two pages of English material.

Among other valuable reprints of the Rationalist Press Association of London (Watts & Co.) during the past year, we note Lecky's *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe* (two vols. in one).