

town or on the less sanguinary mission of reconnoitering the enemy's distribution and movements,—these are some of the situations in which these new machines of destruction are to be observed in action. In the present issue we present a series of pictures reproduced from different sources, which show aircraft in various phases of action.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

HUMAN QUINTESSENCE. *By Sigurd Ibsen.* Authorized translation by *Marcia Hargis Janson.* New York: B. W. Huebsch. Pp. 303. Price \$1.50 net; \$1.62 postpaid.

The personality behind this work will be of particular interest to Americans not alone because Dr. Ibsen is the great dramatist's son, but because he spent some years in Washington as attaché to the Scandinavian legation.

A great man's son is always handicapped. But the author of this book, though also following in the footsteps of his father, makes here a purely intellectual appeal to the reason without recourse to the emotions.

The book is divided into four related essays: "Nature and Man"; "Why Politics Lags Behind"; "Of Human Aptitudes and Human Art"; "Of Great Men: An Essay in Valuation." The first essay strikes the keynote of the book. Man, says Dr. Ibsen, has outgrown nature. The monistic, scientific theory of the universe, which is valid of all other parts of nature, cannot be applied to him. Man is nature plus what the author calls "human quintessence." In the following chapters the author follows up his theory that man cannot be measured by the yard-stick of natural law. Dr. Ibsen formulates a new art, a social technology, which lies in drawing out the fullest human capabilities. But to bring about a society built on human principles, a revolution of our present social system is imperative. A natural development will not lead to it. Society is not an organism, but an organization. Historic continuity is fiction, not fact. The author is a liberal of the liberals and bitterly chastises our politics, whose object is not the development of man, but of might. He is a naturalist, but also an idealist, for in his opinion both have the same aim, the perfection of humanity. His hope for humanity is the freest and fullest development if its essence, the "human quintessence."

This philosophical book is not yet widely enough known, but its value is sure to be recognized in the course of time. It is most needed in this country where men enter politics from a spirit not of service, but of gain, and where social legislation still is in its swaddling clothes.

MAXIMILIAN J. RUDWIN.

The address of Edward P. Buffet, author of *The Layman Revato*, which was noticed in the November number of *The Open Court*, is 804 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, N. J. The selling agents for the book are G. E. Stechert & Co., 151-155 West Twenty-Fifth St., New York.