

is power in the narrative and it throws light on the present immigration problem. Love and religion, politics and poverty play their part in this strange tale of life in Europe and America.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

X. MISCELLANEOUS.

The League of Nations at Work. By Arthur Sweester of the American Peace Commission and the Provisional Secretariat of the League of Nations. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. 215 pp. \$1.75 net.

No better exponent of the League could be wished for than the author of this succinct statement. With a calm and judicial manner of statement he evidently combines a genuine enthusiasm for the Versailles League. He has no misgivings about the plan and no lack of appreciation for all it is doing. There will be many readers to think that its values are exaggerated and its performances up to the present overestimated. However one may appraise the author's judgments, no one should overlook the opportunity here to see a summary of all the claims for working success in this most significant adventure in internationalism.

There are forceful factors in the working of the League which have been in large measure overlooked by the people generally. Incidentally Mr. Sweester uncovers them in this book, but wholly without emphasis. One refers to the various commissions which advise the Council and those which are entrusted with administering the decrees of the League, these and then "the Secretariat." The function and the consequent power of this latter body are partially revealed. It is open to question whether in ultimate fact the secretariat is not the most potent—and most dangerous—element in the whole scheme.

Mr. Sweester has a poorly veiled contempt for what he is pleased to classify as "the unimportant states," whose "dig-

nity" and "pride" are flattered by giving them representation in the Assembly while care is taken that the "power" and "control" of the world shall not be sacrificed by "the big states" who function through the Council.

A very interesting feature of the discussion is the effort to justify the secrecy of "executive sessions" and of committees and of *agenda* making by the secretariat while still magnifying the principle of publicity of all discussions. One day, or more probably by slow degrees, the whole world will find out how much of selfdeception and disguise the framers of the Versailles covenant practiced. They were seeking to do the greatest piece of diplomatic work for constructive statesmanship ever undertaken by any group of men. It is less to be wondered at than deplored that they succeeded in involving themselves in so many inconsistencies and that they really got so little away from the old manipulations by the "world powers." This reviewer is of those who believe that much real progress was made at the Peace Conference, but he believes that until we discover that the world's control was wrongly fixed in the hands of a few powers we shall fail to profit very greatly by the actual progress that was made. The democratic ideal was compromised far more than helped in the covenant there evolved.

The book before us is a highly important one. What it means to the reader depends very much on the reader, of course.

W. O. CARVER.

The Prime Minister. By Harold Spender. George H. Doran Company, New York, 1920. 388 pp.

One may think that he knows enough of the famous British statesman since the newspapers and the magazines tell us so much about David Lloyd George. But here the life story of this remarkable man is told with consummate skill by a trained writer. He balances the parts well and makes the whole stand together in fine proportion. Mr. Spender writes also with en-