

lieve in that conception of society will find the lectures very satisfying; but those who hold to a different conception will find in them no statement of their view which rises above the level of caricature.

**The Freelands.** By John Galsworthy. New York, 1915. Charles Scribner's Sons. 412 pp. \$1.35 net.

Galsworthy needs no introduction and no praise. This new novel exposes the inequalities and iniquities of the landlord system of Great Britain in a tragic plot strongly drawn. The weakness is that there is no definite suggestion of the way out, and so a sort of settled despair pervades the book. Some individuals beat their lives out against the bars while others surrender the fight and settle down to personal comfort in the existing conditions.

**War, Science and Civilization.** By William E. Ritter, Director of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California. Boston: Sherman, French & Co. 1915. 125 pp. \$1.00 net.

This is a rather remarkable book. It is written in admirable style, and shows a thorough knowledge of biological science. It is intended to be a reply to the biological argument in favor of war according to such writers as Treitschke, and men of his school. The reply the author makes seems to be very effective and convincing. He brings out strongly and tellingly the importance of the principle of co-operation in biological and social evolution. He strongly emphasizes the importance and necessity of nationalism in social development; but apparently does not contemplate an international, or super-national political organization of humanity as the goal of that development. In this is the weakness of the author's theory. Consequently the suggestion he makes for putting an end to war seems quite visionary indeed. He thinks the nations which have acquired, by the method of warfare, more of the earth's surface than they really need should voluntarily surrender to vigorous nations which are not so happi-

ly situated a portion of their holdings. Hardly a more impracticable and visionary scheme for the settlement of international differences could be suggested.

But it is interesting reading.

C. S. GARDNER.

**The Pentecost of Calamity.** By Owen Wister, Author of "The Virginian," etc. New York, 1915; The Macmillan Company. 148 pp. 50 cents.

After McCabe's "The Soul of Europe," this volume is the greatest of the war literature this reviewer has seen. And one puts this after McCabe not by reason of any inferiority save that of its scope. In penetration it is fully equal to any other, in moral earnestness it is at white heat, in literary diction it is a superb gem. It pictures the beauty and charm of Germany with a delicate sympathy. It exposes and denounces the Prussianizing of Germany and the attempt at Prussianizing the world in measured language, but passionate earnestness. Its uncovering of the spiritual values is the end of the book. The baptism of calamity is proving a Pentecost of blessing in bringing into consciousness the souls of the peoples. This is indicated for each of the nations of the Allies. Then he says: "If Germany's tragedy be, as I think, the deepest of all, the hope is that she, too, will be touched by the Pentecost of Calamity, and pluck her soul from Prussia, to whom she gave it in 1870. Thus shall the curse be lifted."

The climax of the book is in its application to the United States. We have failed Europe in the time of her severest calamity by an official neutrality that belies our history and our Hague obligations. "We have yet to find our greater selves." For us, and all the rest, the war has this, among other lessons: "that you cannot pay too high for the finding and keeping of your own soul."

W. O. CARVER.

**The Meaning of the War.** By Henri Bergson. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1915. 47 pp. 40 cts.