

Lloyd George and the War. A Personal History of His Part in Armageddon. By an Independent Liberal. London. Hutchinson & Co. 159 pp. Paper, 2 shillings net.

Mr. George is easily the outstanding British figure in the war. Already having risen from Welsh poverty and obscurity to a position among the foremost of Britain's public men, he had the courage, the dash, the imagination, the fiery eloquence that fitted him to forge to the front. The full story of how he came to displace Mr. Asquith as Prime Minister may never be told. It is nearly told in this volume. There are many who think there was conspiracy and treachery in it by means of which unlawful ambition vaulted to the place of supreme responsibility and power in the British Empire. The author of this volume is evidently a full believer in Lloyd George and in the critical demand of conditions that he should come to primacy in the direction of the war. At the same time he tries with great success to tell judicially the full story as far as revealed facts allow in limited space. It is startling to find that while he denies conspiracy he admits, or professes, that George is capable of conspiracy if that were necessary to win the war. My personal knowledge of the Premier is very limited but I know that there are many of us who are not prepared to admit that Mr. George could be guilty of conspiracy for any cause. This author seems to have told the full story in all essential items. Mr. George simply came to the point where he believed he was a far better man than Mr. Asquith to assume responsibility for the war, and better than any other man in Britain. Events made it possible for him to force Mr. Asquith out and leave a situation where no one but himself would dare undertake the responsibility. All this he did and came to the leadership. Mr. George seems to have cast aside every political consideration, personal and party, for the one end of winning the war. He thinks he can do it and is bending every energy to that end. Whether reflection and the future will justify him no man can now say. He and Mr. Wilson are much alike in self-confidence, self-assertion, popular grip. We must await the outcome and calm judgment to appraise their wisdom. This book is of especial value to those who can find time and disposition to be working now on the career, methods and motives of the British Premier.

W. O. CARVER.

The World War and the Road to Peace. By T. B. McLeod, with an Introductory Note by S. Parks Cadman. New York, 1918, The Macmillan Company. 130 pp. 60 cents net.

Here is a vigorous book dealing with all forms of pacifism. The author recognizes several classes of pacifists. Some are silly, some sentimental, some sordid, some sincere, all wrong. The grounds for pacifism may be religious, conscientious, humanitarian, material. With