

The Eclipse of Russia. By E. J. Dillon, Author of "Ourselves and Germany", "Russian Characteristics", etc. New York, 1918, George H. Doran Company. vii-|-423 pp.

If my reader will draw a careful distinction between garrulous gossip and easy, familiar narration, and will apply the latter description to Mr. Dillon's book, he will know what I think of it. Long years of residence with unlimited acquaintance with men, affairs and movements gives to a discerning man the supreme ability to speak about a country. Mr. Dillon has this qualification and he manifests a rare degree of fairness and balance. He has his prejudices. He would be worthless if he had them not. The whole tragic story of Russia's struggle to an untimely rebirth is sketched in outline, with many an intimate inlook upon the character and motive of a chief player as revealed in conversation and private or secret act.

This is one of the books which will help to know a little more of that vast enigma, that congeries of conflicts and contradictions that is Russia and that some day will be redeemed and enlightened.

W. O. CARVER.

The New Book of Martyrs. By Georges Duhamel. Translated from the French by Florence Simmons. New York, George H. Doran Company. 221 pp. \$1.35.

A volume of stories learned in French hospitals by a French military doctor who knew and loved the sufferers. A recital of exploits, sufferings and sacrifices of wounded heroes, unmentioned save for the author. A side of war worthy of study, if one's nerves are equal to the strain. The book is valuable as a picture of the life of the wounded and invaluable for the light shed on the psychology of suffering. No future study of the psychology of suffering will be complete without consulting "The New Book of Martyrs". HENRY W. TIFFANY.

The Call of a World Task. By J. Lovell Murray. Student Volunteer Movement, New York. 214 pp.

A book red hot from the author's heart. It makes the reader sit up and take notice. Written with the world war as a background, and the facts and figures are expressed largely in the imagery and language of war. The fact that the author was limited to thirty days in

preparing the volume accounts for some failures of proportion in treatment of various phases; but taken as a whole it is an unanswerable argument for and a perfectly satisfactory statement of the sufficiency of Christ for every human need.

The six chapters are entitled: "The Call for Reality in Religious Life", "The Call for a Christian Internationalism", "The Call of New Opportunities", "The Call of the World's Present Need", "The Call for a World Program in the Church", "The Call for a Full Mobilization of Christian Forces". Especially timely and helpful. Every pastor should have it, as it is filled with valuable information for use in carrying out our five-year program of \$75,000,000 in the South and \$100,000,000 in the North.

HENRY W. TIFFANY.

Rural Life. By Charles Josiah Galpin, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, in charge of Rural Life Work in the College of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin. New York, The Century Company, 1918. 386 pp.

The number of books appearing on rural life and the rural church is a gratifying indication of the growing interest in the basic industry of society and the multitudes of people engaged in it. I have read a number of these books, but for real scientific value this volume is unique. With a sympathetic interest in rural folk and a truly scientific attitude of mind, Professor Galpin has made a really brilliant analysis of the essential forces and influences that make country life what it is. His chapters on Physical Influences, Psychology of Farm Life, The Social Problem, The Structure of Rural Society, The Social Rule of the Housewife, and The Social Rule of the Child are exceedingly profound, fresh and clear. They constitute, in fact, the best analysis of the rural problem that has been made, so far as my knowledge goes.

This fine analysis is followed by a series of chapters in which the center makes many practical suggestions of great value for improving country life.

The book is primarily a study of rural conditions in Wisconsin. But it is all the more valuable for this limitation. Country life varies greatly in different sections of the country; and this original and invaluable study of those conditions as they exist in one section will prove immensely stimulating and suggestive to students of the problem as it exists in other sections. Moreover, much of what he says is true everywhere. His general conclusions and his methods of study will both be very helpful.

C. S. GARDNER.