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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

The condition of world affairs to-day demand that every thoughtful man and woman should make themselves, in some manner, acquainted with the position from time to time.

Oil, electricity, and radio have helped to make this world—once so vast, that inter-relations were in many instances impossible—one great unit, and it is this closer contact that has, to a large extent, primarily caused such an upheaval among the nations.

For those who desire to learn something of world affairs, or to get information on any particular phase of national disagreement we have on our shelves many books that will satisfy these desires of our subscribers. To mention one phase, the Far East and the Pacific problem. Quite a good number of books on Japan and China, including "The Menace of Japan," by Professor T. O. Conroy; "Japan the Mistress of the Pacific," by P. T. Etherton and H. H. Tiltman; "Manchuria, the Cockpit of Asia," by the same author; "Japan's Place in the World," by Julian Grande; "The Far East Comes Nearer," A. Tiltman; "The Chinese People, their Past, Present, and Future," by A. S. E. Sutton; "The Dragon Awakes," by A. Krarup-Neilsen and others; Siberia, India, Java are also well represented on our shelves. The Magazine "Current History" is a mine of information on world affairs from month to month, and this month's copy contains much that is interesting about the Far East.

Turning up some old papers the other day, the following interesting item came to light:—

The Museum.

"Amongst some of the new contributions recently received from Europe is a complete male skeleton, and a very fine collection of large European and North African birds. The Golden Eagle and the Great Bustard from Europe, the Flamingo and others from Egypt are the most conspicuous. It is greatly to be regretted, as we have repeatedly stated, that want of accommodation will prevent these, and many other collections previously received, from being exhibited to the public."—From "The Lyttelton Times," Sept. 17th, 1868.

From "The Southland Times," August 21st, 1868, we find an account of a discovery "of a certain unctuous liquor oozing up, it has a strong olefiant odour somewhat appertaining to kerosene."

The last report of the Carnegie Corporation of New York illustrates the great work that is being done by the Corporation in various British Dominions and Colonies. During the year ended September 30th, 1936, grants totalling 965,000dol. were made in aid of educational work. Among the grants we find:—

Membership stands higher than ever.
Issues 168,058, increase over last year 3025.
Moved—"That the Council support the inauguration of a National Library Scheme as proposed by the New Zealand Library Association, and that when it is sufficiently developed consideration be given to the possibility of making the existing library free."

Wanganui Public Library

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

Golden Peacock, by Gertrude Atherton. In this story we are introduced to supposedly high life and political intrigue in Augustan Rome. Camponia, the heroine, is a modest strong-minded and resolute golden-haired young lady of sixteen, capable of using a dagger in necessitous circumstances and in a good cause, skilled in dissimulation, and in short has all the qualities of the literary species. Her father and mother are murdered at the instigation of covetous relations, but Pomponia escapes, and, with the help and support of Horace and Maecenas, outwits a wicked uncle and lays bare a conspiracy against the Emperor Augustus, finally ending in the arms of her lover. There are pictures of Roman sumptuousness and country life of the time, and of course other characters, but these are of little importance. the human interest being entirely absorbed by the heroine.

The Door in the Wall, by Lawrence W. Meynell, is a somewhat unusual mystery story dealing with foreign plotters, and although there are many lively and varied adventures detailed neither the hero nor his enemies come to any unseemly end. A young Englishman, while holidaying in Charnac, is supposed to have stumbled upon an important secret, and is spirited away by a gang of political plotters. Aided by outsiders who can speak English, he manages to escape. The reader will find an interested thrill in his adventures to the conclusion, which is a good and thrilling one.

"THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM."

By T. E. Lawrence.

The long waiting list of subscribers for this famous book has now been dealt with, and the volumes have been placed in the glass case in the Non-fiction Room. They may be obtained upon request.

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