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largely in the hands of the ordinary people, by taking the "defence" out of the hands of the professional militarists and to associate themselves with a universal plan of peace construction, by the elimination of such causes of international strife as trade barriers, restricted national wealth, exchange manipulation, profiteering, and colonial claims, quoting three soldiers who have been brave and honest enough to say so, i.e., Field Marshall Sir Wm. Robertson, Lord Allenby, and General Sir Ian Hamilton. The only way civilization can be saved is for the Christian Churches to prove their claim to that title and march towards pacifism.

The title of the book is suggestive (for under military law he was doing his duty to check sudden panic, but it is the satanic nature of war, ruling war ethics, that is criticised by the author for now he can see no use for war in any shape or form) for it is one of the "duties" of officers in command to decide in a flash, to take a soldier's life. The chapter on Military Religion is a scathing, shattering indictment of the powers in authority.

The evident sincerity of the author adds power and strength to the book and parts of it, at all events, were written under tense strain.

Hell's Broth Militia. By W. J. Blackledge. A very popular writer of life in Foreign Legion—he now gives us an insight into the rough and risky life of a sojourn with an irregular force in the mysterious hill country that lies beyond the North West Frontier Province of India. This part of the world is only favoured with the spotlight of publicity when an Afghan King is assassinated, or there is a revolutionary outbreak on a big scale and the "regulars" are turned out in battle order for a "demonstration." But little of the skirmishes and engagements which occur almost daily ever reaches the outer world. Yet, it is just the efficient handling of these every-day jobs, the policing of no-man's-land beyond the Khyber, that keeps the northern gate of India secure against the horrors of stampeding revolution.

A book with a kick in it.

J.H.

Moscow. By Lion Feuchtwanger. The author tells us he set out as a sympathetic visitor but yet mistrustful of Moscow, and that his doubts were confirmed by a little book by André Gide ("Back from the U.S.S.R.") which appeared just before his departure.

This gives a good start to the reader and interest will be sustained as he further peruses the book. He contrasts Trotsky and Stalin in forceful words. His conclusion is that a building is being erected, much debris and scaffolding, but the framework is rising clear and well defined, full of promise, not to bring the people nearer the sky, but the sky nearer to the people. He sees success and comparing it with the doubts and failures of other peoples, he is glad of the opportunity to show his appreciation by writing this book.

RECENT NOVELS

Who Killed Oliver Cromwell? By Leonard R. Gribble. Stephen Ironsides, fraudulent financier, claimed to be like Oliver Cromwell in character. Someone dressed as Oliver Cromwell was stabbed at a fashionable masked ball. Ironsides had secured an invitation to that ball, his social ambitions being such as are usually attributed to parvenus' wives rather than to parvenus. But, although he went as Oliver Cromwell, the reader must not assume he will appear no more. For Ironsides had at least one alias, and at least one double (at £5 a week): also he had undergone facial surgery to become like a fourth party.

Who then was murdered and who was murderer? One more person was murdered and three kidnapped, including the aristocratic girl whom Ironsides had meant to marry, and also including the young man she preferred. So it is not surprising that Inspector Slade hardly understood the complicated plot he was trying to baffle. He shows a good deal of ingenuity, though his author allows him considerable luck in intercepting telephone calls.

—Times Literary Supplement.

The Ghosts of Perranprah. By Hugh Lea. Perranprah Cove is south or south-west of Truro, and has a whirlpool fully as dangerous as the Maelstrom. In it can be heard the yells of the ghost of Sir Rowland de Causeys, who also lights misleading lights in his old tower on Beacon Head. So when Hurst vanished from his hotel in the neighbouring little port of Lanson, local people mostly thought the ghost was to blame. But Meadows, the artist, another guest at the hotel, telephoned to his old schoolfellow Wilmot at Scotland Yard and did so suspiciously quickly.

He, Wilmot, Sergeant Barrett and the Cornish Inspector Slanning had an adventurous week exploring haunted caves, interviewing Sir William Waller at his sanatorium for drug-addicts close to Beacon Head, and detecting signs of non-ghostly use in the beacon itself. One would expect a Scotland Yard man's attitude to ghosts would be either pure scepticism or psychical research, but Wilmot is surprisingly nervous when anything uncanny occurs. However, Sir Rowland never appears, and the three policemen unravel the complex set of events which led someone to want Hurst out of the way.

JUVENILE SECTION

New Books for the Month

To the Fore with the Tanks .. P. F. Westerman
 Buckle of Submarine V2 Rowland Walker
 Treasure at Sonnach Duncan Sinclair
 Between Two Schools Harold Avery
 The Book of England G. E. Milton
 Derelicts of the Sea Stanley Rogers
 Deville McKeene Rowland Walker
 The Boy Who Loved the Sea .. Mary H. Wade
 The Fight for Honour Bernard Bowles
 The Airship "Golden Hind" .. P. F. Westerman
 Adventures Underground T. C. Bridges
 Dastral of the Flying Corps .. Rowland Walker
 Wings over the Atlantic A. D. Divine
 The Vanished Yacht H. Burrage
 Jungle Birds C. L. Edholm
 The Secret Battleplane P. F. Westerman

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