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paredness much of the blame for the

prolonged fighting. He writes down Sir

The invasion of Belgium, with its

violation of treaties, was seized upon as

a motive for British action. But Bel-

ened the integrity of the British empire.

but the British did not realize it in the

beginning. While Sir Edward Grey failed

as a Foreign Secretary, Mr. Simonds de-

clares that the failure of Sir John French,

afterward Field Marshal French, was

even more disastrous in the field. At the

battle of the Marne Joffre asked him to

attack the German line within twenty-

had planned with the help of the British

"The British thought so, too, at first

sald I, "but you know that they dis-

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FRANK H. SIMONDS TRIES TO RECORD VERDICT OF POSTERITY

The First Volume of His History of the War Contains View of an Impartial Spectator-Conan Doyle's History Favors the English

ONE of the pleasantest recollections of my childhood," remarked Doctor McFabre as he settled himself into an easy chair, "is connected with a contemporary history of the Civil War. My father bought the history from a book agent and I was allowed to look at the pictures as a reward for good behavior. was about five years old at the time, One afternoon I was lying flat on my tomach on the floor with the book in front of me. I had a pencil with which was drawing a line around the portraits of the generals. My brother pro tested and told me my father would spank me. I recall that I replied, 'No, he won't,' with perfect confidence in his derant sympathy."

He was silent for a moment or two. whimsical smile crept over his features

"And I didn't get a spanking."

"Was it a good history?" Dick Owenwanted to know.

"Better and more complete histories have been written since," sall he, "but as I have looked over the velume in later years-I have it in my library now, lead pencil marks and all-I have thought it served a useful purpose when it was pub-

"I have seen it announced that hisories of the present war are already on he market," said Owen, as he furned toward me. "Are they worth reading?"

"Of course it is too early to write a lefinitive history," said I. "The war is still in progress and the testimony regarding certain actions that are already completed is conflicting. Years are likely to pass before we know the exact truth about them. Yet there is sufficient interest in the subject to justify assembling all that is known and putting it in the form of a connected narrative, subject to correction as our knowledge increases. I have on my table now the first volume of Frank H. Simonds's history of the war as whole and the second volume of Conan Doyle's account of the actions of the Britsh in Flanders."

"I did not know Conan Doyle was a his

torian," said Doctor McFabre. "History writing is only one of his many activities," I explained. "He was head physician in a military hospital in South Africa in the Boer War and when he returned to England he wrote a history of that conflict, which was widely read at the time of its publication. His first novel was a semi-historical study of the Mormons in America. "The White Company" is also a historical novel. He has written poetry and plays besides creating Sherlock Holmes, the most popular detective in fiction for a century. If you want to read some rattling stories of the Napoleonic wars you should get his Adventures of Girard.' They will show you what war was like when it was fought by men with a sense of chivalry. As I have looked over the second volume of his history of the part the British are taking in the present war I have regretted that he did not use his dramatic imagination in telling his story. He describes what happened in 1915 in a narrative that is devoid of color and difficult to read because of the multitude of details. He looks at the British actions with a microscope and tells us what regiments were engaged in the various actions, who commanded them and what they did. It is important, however, that there should be a ecord of these things. The record will be intensely interesting to the British and will be studied by military students of the technique of fighting. And the American who wishes to get a friendly and sympathetic view of the part the British troops have played on the continent will of posterity, lays on the British unpre

find it worth while." "When our troops begin to fight on the other side, some American writer will do the same service for them." Owen remarked.

"I suppose so," I admitted, "and we going on across the Channel and to listen shall all want to read it. In the mean- with understanding to the warnings of time those of us who are fortunate Lord Roberts and others. When the war enough to have Frank H. Simonds's his. began the British newspapers at first tory will find exactly what we have been said that it did not concern England. ooking for.'

"Who is Simonds?" Doctor McFabre

"You don't mean to say that you have gium was only a pretext. The success ot heard of him?" I asked. "He is the of the German arms would have threatne American newspaper writer whose articles on the war raised him into prominence from the beginning. He was the editor of the New York Evening Sun in 1914 and his editorial articles showed such a comprehensive knowledge of military history and such a grasp of the great issues involved in the war that they were quoted in all parts of the country. Early in the spring of 1915 he four hours. Sir John replied that he went over to the New York Tribune and could not attack within less than forty was put in charge of the editorial page to eight hours. The movement which Joffre continue his commentaries on the war. The first volume of his history carries would have crumpled the German flank us to May, 1915. But before he begins and would have forced a retreat that, if to discuss the fighting he gives us a the French plans had carried, would have brief resume of the political events in been almost a rout. But Sir John was Europe since 1870. His discussion of the not equal to the emergency. It was Genhas been written. Former Ambassador battle of the Marne." has been written. Former Ambassador battle of the Marne."

Morgenthau, for example, wrote last Sun"I thought that Sir John French did latter half of the volume. The author has weeks before the Austrian Archduke was assassinated, and he put the entire blame for the cataclysm on the Germans. Mr. placed him and put General Haig in his Simonds, however, after remarking that place. Mr. Simonds, who has followed volumes have been published to prove the war from the beginning and has that this nation or that was most anxious visited the battlefields and talked with to preserve the peace, remarks that it the French officers, gives us the benefit seems probable that in the future all of something broader than the British these details will be forgotten by the view about their own achievements. historian who will perceive that the What he writes may have to be revised twelve days were not significant, as all in the light of fuller knowledge when the hope for peace had expired long before; war is over. But his book deserves to and he says that the statesmen who take rank as a most brilliant and com frantically labored for peace were as impotent as the medicine man who invokes of the early months of the war. If the charms to check the approach of a cyclone. I know there are persons who of the first one, America can boast of a hold a different view, but I am inclined

start the war?" asked Owen. "In a broad sense, no. In a narrow sense, yes," I said. "The war grew out of the conflicting selfishnesses of the nations of Europe. Events were shaping themselves for years before the first of August, 1914, which made war inevitable. When the critics say it is the greatest book of the war, when the booksellers say its popularity far exceeds that of any book, fiction included, when its sale is increasing each week (on one day in the dullest season orders by wire being received from Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, New Orleans, Denver, Salt Lake City, St. Paul. San Francisco. Los Angeles), when every reader becomes an enthusiastic advertiser—even a conservative publisher is obliged to assent to the use of superlatives by his publicity manager. Far-sighted men had long been aware of the condition, but they had hoped the inevitable could be escaped. If the nations had been prepared for war as Germany was prepared the conflict would not have lasted three years. Mr. Simonds, writing in America, and so able in a way to find that verdict of a foreigner, which

to think that this is the correct one."

"Then you think that Germany did not



has been said to resemble the verdict THE SURE ROAD TO HAPPINESS

Edward Grey as a failure, for the reason Ruth Sawyer Points the Way in that he had not prepared the mind of the Her Whimsical Story of Her-British public to understand what was self, Himself and Myself

Those readers who discovered Ruth and altruistic to be natural is George Van sawyer when they found delight in "Seven Schalck's new nevel, "A Top-Floor Idyl," Miles to Arden," will welcome her new If the setting were not in the very midst ovel, "Herself, Himself and Myself." The of New York city one might not be surew story is written in the same whimsical prised at the types in the book, but the frish manner that characterized the earlier | characters are none the less delightful, alne. An Irish woman tells it in the first though a bit out of place located in our person. Mrs. Durand-Ruth Sawyer is the most mercenary and materialistic center. wife of Dr. Albert C. Durand, of Ithaca, N. David Cole, who tells the story, is a middle--has specialized in Irish folk tales. Al- aged bachelor, a writer, living on the top though she is by birth a Bostonian, she has floor of Mrs. Milliken's boarding house, near succeeded in getting hold of the spirit of Washington Square. His friendship for the Irish and reproducing it. In her latest Frieda Long, a spinster artist, fat and good hearted, is the delightful comradeship so book she deals with the old-fashioned emotions in the old-fashioned way; that is, she seems to believe that there are such things as love and loyalty, unselfishness and sacrifice and that the road to happiness is to be found, not by seeking it, but that one finds oneself in it when one least expects it, provided one seeks it for some one else. Her heroine is a young woman, daughter of rich parents, who is left in her childhood to the care of an Irish nurse and three finds of her father, after her parents die to the care of an Irish nurse and three friends of her father, after her parents die and leave her in comparative poverty. She is disappointed in her first great love, when she gives herself to a Swedish violinist, who destroys the jilusions about her father and destroys her own faith in men. The story of how she is tenderly cared for during the care of how she is tenderly cared for during the care of the expected love story developments with happy endings and success and money rewarding those who have given freely of kindness and inspiration. "A Top-Floor ldy!" is more like "Sweetapple Cove" in written by Mr. Van Schalck since the publication of that popular story. Europe since 1870. His discussion of the not equal to the emergency. It was Genhistory of the twelve fateful days that eral Foch, with troops in no letter shape preceded the actual declaration of war is in a different temper from most that German line in the center and won the has been written. Former Ambassador battle of the Marne."

Europe since 1870. His discussion of the not equal to the emergency. It was Genhistory the filusions about her father skyle and sentiment than and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of how she is tenderly careful to the road of her possimism and is brought at last into the road to happiness through service to others make a supplied to the emergency. It was Genhistory the filusions about her father skyle and sentiment than an and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the president of the provided that the provided the filusions about her father skyle and sentiment than an and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the president of the provided that the provided the filusions about her father skyle and sentiment than an and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck institute of the man destroys her own faith in men. The style and destroys her own faith in men. The style and destroys her own faith in men. The written by Mr. Van Schalck in the provided of the possimism and is a story of how she is tenderly and destroys her own faith in men. The style and destroys h ie Irish woman say that she does not care what the critics think about the kind of "A Chaste Man" is the story of a modern story she is telling. She is going to write about the things she thinks are important in spite of the theories of the cynics. She has written a story that, whether it pleases the critics or not, will entertain the average reader, who can lay it down when he or she has finished it with a feeling that the world s a pretty good place in which to live and

that there are such things as goodness and HERSELF, HIMSELF AND MYSELF. A re-manner. By Buth Sawyer. New York: Harper & Brow., \$1.55.

Information for Airmen

When Captain Guynemer, intrepld French aviator, fell to his death in combat with a German airman several weeks ago all the world naused to marvel at the exploits of the fallen king of the air. No less thrilling are the daring risks and flery combats described in the diary of an air pilot to which many pages are devoted in "The Way of the Air." by Edgar C. Middleton. The less spectacular but even more informative part of this volume is devoted to a description of an airman's life, the conditions under which he works and the difficulties and dangers he has to encounter. Additional helpful information is detailed for the student aviator, making "The Way of the Air" a valuable pocket guide for members of America's future flying corps.

THE WAY OF THE AIR. A description of mod-Information for Airmen historian of whom any nation might be A HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR. By Arthur Conan Doyle. Vol II. The British Campaign in Flanders. 1915. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$2.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAR. By Frank H. Simonds. Vol. I. Garden City: Published for the Beview of Reviews Company by Doubleday, Page & Co. \$3.50.

When one lays down Professor Laura H. Wild's book on the evolution of the Hebrew people the wish that these favored tribes had produced a greater influence on civilization is uppermost. The yearning for another prophet to lead the stricken world out of its present orgy of madness is strong out of its present orgy of madness is strong the reader. Another Jonah or even An Old Favorite
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THE WATER BABIES. By Charles Kingsley With Hustrations in color by Maria L. Kirk Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company \$1.35.

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GROWTH IN SILENCE, By Susanna Cocroft New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

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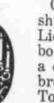
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