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Personally, I have no use at all for life as it is except as raw material. It hores me to look at things unless there is the idea of doing something with them. I should find a holiday, doing sothing amidst heautiful scenery, not a holiday doing to thing amidst heautiful scenery, not a holiday hut a torture. The contemplative ecstacy of the saints would be hell to me. In the—I forget exactly how many—books I have written, it is always about life being aftered I write, or about people developing schemes for altering life. And I have never once "presented" my life. My apparently most objective books are criticisms and incitements to change. So when one says that Mr. Wells's latest novel, "Joan and Feter," is an Personally, I have no use at all for latest novel, "Joan and Feter," is an indictment of education in Great Britain for the last fifty years and a plan for a system of education which would really ducate. Mr. Wells would say that b that the book was meant to be. There-ore, to criticize the book as a novel ac-ording to the accepted fictional standards would be like criticizing Westmin-ster Abbey according to the standards of the Partheon. The novel part of it is merely the bolus which this one-time pharmacist's clerk has used to contain the medicament in his social pill. But it is skillfully done. Nobody could do it better. He has given a series of illumi-

nating sketches of English society for

the last twenty-five years, as Peter and Joan grew up from infancy to maturity.

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wa have done poorly enough.
The message of the book is that if
Englishmen had been properly educated the war would not have come about, and that if future wars are to be prevented so that there may be an orderly progress something must be done to improve the schools and colleges and to bring them into closer contact with modern life and its problems. The book ends with April of this year when the March drive of the Germans had succeeded and every-one in England was despondent. Peter and Joan have married after Peter has served in the infantry and in the avia-tion corps and has been wounded so that must work behind the lines in

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stand. A dictionary of the soldier' dialect is needed. The closing chapte dislict is needed. The closing chapter on "the faith of the soldier" is suggestive and encouraging. It emphasizes the growth of character in the young man, shown in his forgetfulness of self in the discharge of his duties, and that to him now death has no terrors. The book is a noteworthy contribution to the Soldiers' Letters One thing which distinguishes this war from every other is the infinite knowl-edge we have of life at the front from the soldiers' letters. And we learn what

Stories of the Front

the soldiers' letters. And we loath what the spirit is which animates them, and makes them, as one writes, "go without regret, with the consciousness of hixing done my duty." For this reason, "The Good Soldier" is one of the most noteworthy and valuable contributions to the war-literature. It consists of selections from letters, written by French, English, from letters, written by French, Langues, Cannellans and Americans, most fre-quently to "mothers," and showing un-expected literary talent. At the very worst one feels, as a wounded French boy write, that they "fight with a song on their lips, courage in their hearts for France." Each letter is prefuced by a descriptive note of the writer by N. P. Dawson, with one at the end giving the source from which the letter is taken. THE GOOD SOLDIER, A selection of soldiers' letters 1914-1918. With comment by N. P. Dawson, New York: The Macmillan Company, \$1.25.

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G. W. D. JUAN AND PETER. The story of an education. By H. G. Wells. New York The Machinian Company. 11.75

Searching for Mary

It is a very charming, very tender, very burnan story that Julies Wilhor Tompking tells in "A Girl Nained Mary The Mary of the title was lost in early childhood through the accidental dearn of the richest with the circus expires, and the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the half on the little solution of the little solution of the little solution of the story tells of her the nainager to break her company the half of the human snake in vandeville days and the story tells of her to induce the nainager to break her company the half of the little solution of the little solution of the little solution of the sum of the company that Julies Wilhor to the human snake in vandeville solution of the little solution of the sum of the company of the title was lost in early childhood through the accident at the little solution of the sum of the course of life that follows the said sum of the course of life that follows the solution of the course of life that follows the solution of the sum of the course of the tiles where the course of the relaxed discovery is among the valu

go to bed alone, as a man should, at the end of his fifth nirthday. The first chapter tells of his birthday and the momentous announcement, and the last Life at the front is vividly pletured one deals with low so came down to in the twenty stories told by a British breakfast in the morning. In between is captain, who calls himself "Centurion," a succession of delightful whimself addin "Gentlemen at Arms." There is hardly ventures, starting with a trip on the an experience of soldiers and officers, exan experience of soldiers and oncers, except commanding generals, which does
not find a place in them. He even takes
his reader in an airplane, and in a
his reader in an airplane, and in a
boat on the stormy waters of the North
boat on the stormy waters of the nursery it will not be because it is Sea in search of German submarines, and to Flemish and English farms. As all the stories of the soldiers are told in their own language, there is much that the difficult for the home reader to understand the difficult for

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Phile is a graduate of the Rising Sun streetive Agency's correspondence school of Detecting. When the tale of the Presumer himself and in the care-pens he has taken only eleven of the full relection made in the vast material. selve lessons necessary to entitle him furnished by the war to bring out clear

spens he has taken only eleven of the twice lessons necessary to entitle him to his diploma and to the right to wear an official star. He lives in fliverbank, in a small town on the banks of the Mississippi. One would think that there was little crime to detect there, but this finds an astonishing variety of injecties to ungavel, from the identity of the thief of a calf to the cause of the death of a man found sewed up in a bag in the river. And he unravels every one, for at least they are all solved while he is working on them and he gets the credit.

When he is asked how it is that he knows so well what the outcome of his investigations will be he remarks that an of the curious things about the decident of a control eventually to cramp his mind and narrow his vision. Not realizing this, he called treating highers is that you never the less three terms of the curious things about the decident of the curious things about the decident of the work of a woman whom and the word of a woman whom and the word of a woman whom a strength his he called the work is going to happen until it happens.

Philo is a side-spillting burlesque of the curious of life that follows.

The Balkans

from 500 to 1915, by Nevill Forbes and

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