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Thomas Nelson Page, wartime ambassador of the United States to the Quirinal, distinguished novelist and man of affairs, tells for the first time comprehensively and authoritatively the narrative of Italian participation in the great war. He calls his important volume "Italy and the World War." The heroic and effective role of Italy has not been expatiated upon in any book hitherto published in this country. The subject is one of which most Americans are rather ignorant. Yet Italy played a most conspicuous part and deserves the greatest credit in the summing up of victory.

John Galsworthy Who tells more about the Forsyte family TRAGEDY OF THE SUZERAINTY IDEA John Galsworthy Shows What Happens to a Domineering Man If one chooses to read between the lines in John Galsworthy's latest novel, "In Chancery," one can find there a most subtle commentary on the British empire. The book might be called a study of the English divorce laws and much could be found in it to justify this description.

SOME FICTION BY FOREIGN NOVELISTS Couperus, Reymont and Rygiel-Nalkowska for American Readers

Wladyslaw Stanislaw Reymont is the noted of contemporary Polish novelists, having won the Nobel prize for literature in 1920. He is virtually unknown to readers of English, but on the score of his first novel to be translated, "The Courtesan," he is a force to be reckoned with in fiction. So has noted a writer of fiction than Rupert Hughes says of Reymont: "While we are waiting for his novels into English the Spaniards are translating Reymont into Spanish. Reymont represents the spirit of the new Poland. He is as one of its realistic portents. Realism is his forte, as he proves in his narrative of a Polish girl, who, reading her drab village environment and its lack of ideas revolts against the circumstances of her restricted life and joins a company of provincial players colloquially called in Poland 'co-medians.' The comedy, however, not limited to interpreters of comedy with us. She is a strange, exotic young person, feminist and nationalist, with a sweeping faith in her Slavic derivation and defying an obedient child's own individuality. This is a most closely observed study of a feminine temperament set in a story rich in action and personalities.

"Kobiety" is another book by a Polish novelist of brilliance and insight. It is a study of the woman through the intelligence of Europe and is filtering over the Atlantic. The author is Sofia Rygiel-Nalkowska, and Reymont's book, the story is one of genuine temperament against a background of the racial and national consciousness of Poland. The title, literally translated, means "Women." It is a study of woman in its searching of psychology of womanhood and its power of projection of situation and character. An eminent and recent critic of Slavic literature, Feldman, declares of it that "Marie Bashkirtseff's work, styled Europe's discovery of the feminine soul, becomes child's play." The heroine is moody, in a big sense and way, capricious in a femininely charming and intriguing manner and ever and always in personality. The author is candid to the point of outspokenness—she has the "punch" and the queuing independence of the intellectual rebel. She rebels against set forms and against conventional viewpoints. Her novel is causing much comment in Europe, and if it is widely read on this side doubtless the sensation will be duplicated.

Louis Couperus, whose "Small Souls" and other works have won a distinct and rather distinguished following, also an abundant material relating to the establishment of relief centers, canteens, asylums for women and children, large hospitals for those wounded in the field, and medical centers for juvenile and civilian relief. F. A. Holt has translated "The General Staff and Its Problems," a big two-volume work by General von Ludendorff, which is of unique nature and value. It is not a personal record or history, written after the war, but a collection of official documents, not only covering the actual operations of the World War, but go back into the years of preparation as far as 1909. This collection of secret, confidential, candid and pertinent communications throws a light that nothing else could upon the most important events of the conflict and upon Germany's final defeat. No personal apology, memoir, attempt to fall back upon a minimum, but the unvarnished presentation of world-changing history in the making, a book bears the subtitle, "The History and Relations Between the High Command and the German Imperial Government, as Revealed by Official Documents."

Among the original and contemporary documents included in the report of the conference between Bethmann-Hollweg, Hindenburg and Ludendorff at Pless, when the unrestricted submarine campaign was finally decided upon and the "unrestricted" campaign was launched, is a memorandum, written by the chancellor, Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the Foreign Office, revealing the internal difficulties of Germany in 1916. The matter of American participation as the German authorities saw it, discussed it, is gone into thoroughly. The collection contains the program of the German military authorities on such important subjects as the food question, the coal and transport question, the production of nitrogen, mercantile shipbuilding, schemes for helping soldiers and sailors during and after the war, for patriotic instruction to the troops, for the handling of the press and for the supplying of information to the public. Moreover, the suggestions and directions issued by Ludendorff to the staff, throughout the latter part of the war he was the real dictator of Germany. In his preface he states that when he published his earlier work, "War Memories," he had already determined to make public "records bearing on the subject, in order to enlighten the world as to the thoughts and actions of the supreme command. His story of the war, and dealings with the imperial chancellor and with the further object of bringing home to every German that the matter of undertaking such a task was not a matter of mere honor, but of revealing "how much was kept secret from the supreme command by the imperial government."

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