

interest; and here the book has more direct bearing upon present-day affairs.

The average reader will turn with most interest to the third section, "The Future"; and in it he will find much to stimulate thought. It would be too much to expect a general agreement with all the views advanced by the author; but whether one differs from him or not, his book will serve a useful purpose in compelling people to think out certain problems which must arise before many months have passed. Sir Oliver Lodge is frankly an optimist; but his optimism does not blind him to the difficulties which will lie before this country when the war is over. He discusses the question of social unrest, traces its roots in the present industrial conditions, and suggests one or two points at which improvements might be made; but the limited space at his disposal has obviously led to a curtailment of this part of the book. He asks that science shall not be forced "to grub along like a sort of Cinderella, called in occasionally when the housework has to be done, but otherwise left to sit among the ashes and brood"; but the turn of his phrases seems to hint that, like most of us, he has little hope of any immediate improvement in this direction.

Apart altogether from its subject-matter, the volume is interesting as a revelation of the feelings of one of the older generation. Sir Oliver Lodge is clearly one of those who were well acquainted with "the lovable, friendly, and homely past aspects of the majority of our present foes"; and, lulled by these recollections, he failed to notice that the modern German has but little resemblance to his forefathers. Naturally the revelations of the war have shocked him, and he strives pathetically to readjust his views. He is plain-spoken in his indignation at the methods employed by the Germans in the campaign; but when he comes to the question of the settlement after the war, there appears, not too vaguely, the firm belief that madness will depart and leave us once more with the kindly Germans of his earlier recollections.

Sir Oliver Lodge's conclusions may or may not be right, and it certainly seems to be risking a good deal upon a gambler's chance. The essential condition of peace is the security of Europe for the next generation; and if the German people emerge from their ordeal in a better frame of mind it will be all to the good; but it would be criminal to leave them with their teeth undrawn merely on the chance that they might re-acquire the old characteristics which they have evidently lost. It is no use telling us that "an enormous amount of what they are committing just now

has nothing to do with their soul." A nation whose soul is so aloof from "what they are committing" might just as well have no soul at all. The matter cannot be shuffled off on to the back of Prussia alone. The criminal statistics of Germany before the war were a sufficient danger signal; and, as to the South German type, the Bavarians had a bad reputation in 1870, and have gained a worse one during the present campaign. One may regret the past, in common with Sir Oliver Lodge, but it is useless to blind ourselves to the fact that we are dealing with a different kind of nation to-day.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Soils: their Properties and Management. By Prof. T. L. Lyon, Prof. E. O. Fippin, and Prof. H. O. Buckman. Pp. xxi+764. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1915.) Price 8s. net.

PROF. LYON has done well to bring together his colleagues in the well-known school of soil technology at Cornell, and induce them to join in producing a book on soil management. The result is eminently successful, and will be cordially welcomed by all teachers and students of agricultural science.

Beginning with the general principles of soil formation, the authors pass, naturally, to the actual soils of the United States, and reproduce for this purpose the interesting soil map published two years ago by the Bureau of Soils. From the soil as a mass they proceed to the separate particles, dealing first with chemical and physical properties, and then with the relationships to water and temperature. Afterwards they turn to the micro-organisms of the soil, and finally to the methods of soil management—methods by which the soil conditions can be made more favourable for the growth of plants.

The distinguishing feature of the book is the extensive use made of the results of recent investigations in the United States, in this country, and on the Continent. On reading the book one is struck by the great advance made by soil investigators during the past ten or fifteen years. New points of view, new fields of knowledge, and new methods of investigation have all been opened up, and the various results are beginning to piece together remarkably well. Altogether the outlook is very hopeful, and if only soil investigators could find an elegant name for their subject they would soon be assured of an enthusiastic following.

E. J. RUSSELL.

The Cures of the Diseased in Forraine Attempts of the English Nation. London, 1598.

Reproduced in facsimile, with introduction and notes by C. Singer. Unpaged. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1915.) Price 1s. 6d. net.

THE short tract now published in facsimile by the Clarendon Press was written by one George Wateson, doubtless George Whetstone, the