

BOOK NOTICES

Armageddon or Calvary, by H. E. Holland, M.P. (Maoriland Worker office. 2/-.)

It is a pleasure for a reviewer to find under his notice a book by a man who has not only something to say, but also the power to say it well. This is the third time it has fallen to our lot to review a publication by Mr. Holland, and we hope it will not be the last. We notice that he has in the press at present some further works which we want to read badly. However, it is with the present volume we have now to concern ourselves, and certainly in it Mr. Holland has a message of vast weight for New Zealand readers, and it loses nothing in the delivery. *Armageddon or Calvary* is the history of "the conscientious objectors of New Zealand and the 'process of their conversion.'" It is the mature and documented indictment of the tyranny of Militarism introduced into the Dominion during the war by the Coalition Government, and it is a story that ought to be read before the coming elections by every man and woman who loves freedom and hates despotism, whether of the genuine Prussian brand or of that of its too successful imitators. Mr. Holland collects and arranges here the facts which, when spread over a number of years, lost their force of appeal to humane people; he sums up, as it were, against the indicted Militarists, and readers of his book will go to the polling booths with the evidence fresh in their memories. The book will reach a large number of people who have only heard belated and bowdlerised accounts of the facts; it will bring home to them in unmistakable fashion what Militarism means, and what has been done by Militarists in New Zealand. People will see for themselves that Militarism is a bad thing for Prussia, but that it is no better for New Zealand; and they will ask themselves what must be done to crush the spirit out here as it has been crushed in Prussia. We doubt not that to make people ask themselves precisely that question is Mr. Holland's aim. And there can be no doubt that in this book he has succeeded as well as any man could succeed. While we fought against tyranny there was a tyranny in our midst; while we denounced the breaking of treaties our own Ministers were breaking agreements and tearing up scraps of paper; while we raged about the atrocities in Belgium we had our own Wangantui and our own transports on which conscientious objectors were tortured by brutal soldiers. Read now the account of the sufferings of Briggs, of Ballantyne, of Baxter, and ask yourself whether such things were endured at the hands of Prussians or of New Zealanders. Read how the War Ministers overrode the will of the people and broke faith with them in their hurry to pour out of the Dominion thousands of conscripts to swell the armies fighting in Europe. Read of the douching with cold water, the beating, the violent stripping, the "crucifixions," the kicks and blows which conscientious objectors had to suffer, and you will have some idea of what Militarism is. Recently the American Envoys to Ireland reported that almost similar treatment was meted out to political prisoners by the Britons in Ireland. Macpherson denied it, and nobody believed him. Will anybody who has read this book accept an official denial as a refutation of the plain narratives of the men who suffered? Will the pro forma "Not Guilty" of our Militarists convince anybody who reads Mr. Holland's book that Militarism is not indeed

the terrible thing he says it is? and will he plead in vain that at the coming elections the people of New Zealand see to it once and for all that in as far as in them lies they will make this part of the world safe for Democracy by driving from public life the men who were guilty of the crime of introducing Militarism into the Dominion? Mr. Holland's book is a document in the history of the Dominion that ought to be in the hands of all. We predict for it a great circulation and an immense influence on the minds of all to whom Democracy is more than a mere catch-word.

The Little One's Mass Book. (Talbot Press. 3d.)

Here is a real child's prayer-book, illustrated, printed in large type, and containing beautifully simple prayers for children. Nothing could be better.

A Little Golden Key of Heaven. (Talbot Press. 2/-.)

A vest-pocket prayer-book such as many men look out for. It contains all the essential devotions, and is well bound.

The Coming of Cuculain.

In the Gates of the North.

The Triumph of Cuculain. Three volumes by Standish O'Grady. (Talbot Press Co.)

Most of us who are interested in the Gaelic revival have been often anxious to obtain in permanent form the beautiful stories of the ancient Irish, and too often our search for books such as we sought was vain. Nobody can understand modern Irish literature without a knowledge of the old legends and tales. The best of Pearse, of Stephens, of Yeats is sealed to us unless we have studied the ancient mythology. To know it is as imperative for an Irish student as it is imperative for a student of the classics to know the mythology of Greece and Rome. The Talbot Press already gave us in Standish O'Grady's *Essays* a most helpful book. It has increased our indebtedness now by the publication of the three volumes under our notice. In New Zealand we are glad to know that many are deeply interested in Ireland's past, and we are glad to be able to introduce to them such works as Mr. O'Grady's, for the appearance of which we have to thank the well-known firm of publishers in Talbot Street. Some time ago we quoted a long passage from Padraic Pearse, and we saw how he regarded the study of the Celtic hero Cuculain as of vast importance for Irish boys. Cuculain was in a sense the model hero, and St. Enda's boys were taught to aim at becoming as it were Christian Cuculains. The Gaelic past lived at St. Enda's and its inspiration was drawn from Pearse deep lore of ancient Ireland. O'Grady's books are calculated to do for their readers what Pearse did for his boys. They will bring back the lost knowledge, and will restore the ideals of national culture, which next to her Christian faith, are Ireland's greatest treasure. Writing of these books, A.E. says: "When I close my eyes, and brood in memory over the books which most profoundly affected me, I find none excited my imagination more than Standish O'Grady's especial narrative of Cuculain. Whitman said of his *Leaves of Grass*, 'Comrade, this is no book: who touches this touches a man' and O'Grady might have boasted of his *Bardic History of Ireland*, written with his whole being, that there was more than a man in it, there was the soul of a people, its noblest and most exalted life symbol set in the story of one heroic character.



The Loveliest Blouses—Moderately Priced, too!

ALERTNESS, the prime factory in any Business maintaining Supremacy in Style, is exemplified in BEATH'S BLOUSE SECTION. The Garments showing To-day are the Season's most alluring offering.

Special line of Jap Silk Blouses. These are well made, of good quality silk, with roll and also convertible collars. Assorted sizes 21/-

White Jap Silk Blouses, in heavy quality silks. Smartly-cut collars and cuffs. Assorted styles and sizes. Ranging from 23/6 27/6 35/6

BEATH'S, Christchurch

Smart Striped Silk Blouses, with square and pointed collars: plain, but very serviceable. Assorted shades . . . 22/6

Novelty Blouses. In White French Embroidered Voiles. Pretty shapes. Collars trimmed insertion and Valenciennes lace 35/6

Novelties in Sports Coats and Jumpers—exquisitely fashioned

F. A. LAWS, The SPORTS HOUSE, 29 Courtenay Place, Wellington. Also at Riddiford Street, Newtown. THE BEST CRICKET MATERIAL can always be obtained at our Premises in COURTENAY PLACE, or at our Branch House in RIDDIFORD S., NEWTOWN. Sporting Goods of every description stocked by us, together with a varied and choice range of Ladies' Handbags and Travelling Requisites. : : 'PHONE 4426.