

# Belles lettres and bell ringers

## Turkey, battered and revived

Harry N. Howard. *The Partition of Turkey*. A diplomatic history, 1913-1923. Norman. University of Oklahoma Press, 1931. \$5.00.

THE history of the disintegration of Turkey and its rôle in international politics, economics, and militarism are of the utmost importance to us now for several reasons. The most timely of these is the analogy between the international situation in Turkey in the nineteenth century, and in China in the twentieth. If Turkey was "the sick man of Europe," China can be termed now "the sick man of the world." This does not mean, of course, that it must follow to the end the route travelled by Turkey: history may draw conclusions from the past, but these seldom lead to infallible prophesies. But in the light of Turkey's history we can see more clearly the interplay of forces which are behind those disturbing dispatches from China.

How did the partition of Turkey come about? By what stages and in what way was this "sick man of Europe" compelled to give up his estate and remain under surveillance in a small part of it? And is this treatment curing his illness?

The publication by the Bolsheviks of the secret treaties has enabled Doctor Howard to use material of a kind never used before in works of history. It has made it possible to see behind diplomatic ruse and Macchiavellian machinations covered up for the public by noble slogans and high-sounding phrases.

Doctor Howard avails himself of this new opportunity with remarkable reserve, impartiality, and insight. Without exclamation points and sensational allegations he follows the intricate pattern of diplomatic weaving carefully, conscientiously, and leads us along not in a breathless flurry, but by steady steps of an alert and energetic gait. This narrative is dignified, yet easily readable; concise, yet lucid and intelligible; scholarly, yet accessible to anyone with a general knowledge of history and current events.

It is remarkable how deftly Doctor Howard handles the stupendous mass of documents, of open and secret treaties, of confidential reports to crowned heads and state councils. The maze of

national interests and demands of each country is disentangled, and we see each motive at work, all conflicts gathering momentum, until the outbreak—the World war and the partition of Turkey—becomes inevitable.

For these two are closely connected. The rivalries of the Powers over the Balkans and the Straits may not have been the sole cause of war, but Doctor Howard's research proves conclusively that they were among the main causes at least.

"The problem of the Near East and Turkey," says the author, "must be assigned, if not the chief, at least a major share, in the causes which finally led to the great conflict." "By the spring of 1914, the western European Powers—Germany, France, England, and even Italy and Austria—were dividing Turkey into spheres of influence around their economic interests, preparatory to a possible partition of the Ottoman Empire." "Russia's great economic interests in Turkey centered in the necessity for an outlet through the straits."

Naturally, military and political moves of each country went hand-in-hand with these economic interests.

Thus the question of "war-guilt" is answered—and the answer is substantiated throughout the book, without emphasis and without deviating from the main topic, the history of the last days of the Ottoman Empire. We see plainly that this was not a war of German aggression, or "a war to end wars," or "a war for democracy." All Powers were equally guilty, all Powers saw it coming, and all expected to gain one thing or another. And those who were not ready and therefore would have preferred peace, had no choice, but to join just the same. Early in 1914 Russia, choking in her age-long lack of outlet, discussed in secret state conferences the possibility of gaining the straits by a war. Both conferences declared that war would be disastrous for Russia and that she could not engage in one. How correct this statement had been, was proved by her subsequent collapse when she was forced into the World war. And so—not because of her government's love for peace, but because of its interests—Russia did try to avoid war, and, even after the outbreak, strove to maintain peaceful relations with Turkey. But "Turkey was already a German

protectorate to be pushed into the world conflict whenever it best suited German interests to do so," and this because "so diametrically opposed were the aims of the Allies in Turkey that they did not act in concert either in the promise of favors to the Porte or in their threats against the Ottoman government. The result was that the Turks were left to face the ever-increasing pressure of the Germans alone." The Turkish military strength was entirely in German hands due to the Liman von Sanders mission; the incident of Goeben and Breslau already placed Turkey almost definitely on the side of Germany; by the sequestration of two new Turkish vessels England had aroused the antagonism of Turkish public opinion. On October 29, 1914 the combined Turco-German fleet attacked the Russian Black Sea fleet and ports. Yet, Russia still continued her negotiations with Turkey, hoping to bring about an alliance, or at least to keep that country's neutrality. "The importance of the episode," says Doctor Howard, "is of the first magnitude, for had Turkey come into the war on the side of the Allies—perhaps even if she had remained neutral—the war might have ended two years before 1918, the Balkans might not have been lost, Greece might have been won, the straits might have remained open, Russia might have been provisioned by the Allies and the revolution of 1917 thereby postponed if not forestalled." . . . "Had the leaders of Turkish policy received the necessary encouragement from the Allies acting in concert, they might have favored the Entente." . . . "Both France and England seem to have been too certain of an easy victory over Turkey to consider it worthwhile to make advances toward conciliation."

How little the differences in race, nationality, creed, temperament, standards of living were responsible for the seeming hatreds between the different countries may be seen in the complicated and interesting stories of the different alliances. Bulgaria, for instance, renounces all loyalty to Slavdom and becomes the ally of Germany and Turkey against Serbia and Russia. We also see how much the cause of peace can hope from the principle of "Defensive wars." When Bulgaria, through diplomatic moves, becomes Germany's ally, "the general secretary of the Sofia foreign office advised Tarnowsky that *an incident would have to be created in order to make the war properly defensive*. This incident took place as arranged and the Bulgarian forces crossed the Serb frontier."

But it is impossible to quote all that is worth quoting from Doctor Howard's book—there would be enough for another book almost the size of his. Read

what he says about the Bolshevik disclosures, his quotations of statements of the Soviet government, of the Soviet diplomats, his story of the Brest-Litovsk treaty. . . .

If history is to teach us lessons, this book is replete with them for anyone who is willing to make unprejudiced deductions.

The last chapter of the book tells in brief what became of Turkey after the Lausanne conference.

It is now an entirely secular republic, having separated the state and the church (abolished the Caliphate). The new Latin alphabet for the Turkish language has been established since 1928. In 1930 Turkish women were given the right to vote. The dress of both men and women is completely westernized.

Politically, there is still a dictatorship, but the movement for a more liberal regime is gaining momentum.

Before the year 1913 Turkey was a huge polygot empire; now it is a small, compact nationalistic state. Its outlines and boundaries are shown on a clear little map.

*The Partition of Turkey* is a valuable book for the study of international relations and for permanent reference; it is an important contribution to history. The publishers may be congratulated upon this selection and upon the pleasing appearance they gave it.

The appendices are very helpful, though not exhaustive enough; particularly the index is not complete.

SOPHIE R. A. COURT.

### A pathfinder in embryology

Aute Richards. *Outline of Comparative Embryology*. New York. John Wiley and Sons. 1931. \$5.00.

The first book in the English language dealing with any science is always likely to be of unusual significance and interest; such is the case in Doctor Richards' *Outline of Comparative Embryology*, which makes available for the first time to students of embryology an authoritative text and reference book, on this subject.

The writer of this book, Doctor A. Richards, head of the department of zoology of the University of Oklahoma, is particularly well fitted to write such a book because of his long years of experience in introducing students to the subject of embryology. It is an entirely logical assumption to believe that just as comparative anatomy is the best basic study for special anatomical fields such as human anatomy, so should comparative embryology, giving its broad background, be the most desirable beginning for the student of any special field of embryology.

This book, covering the animal king-

dom, has as its aim the setting forth before the student in a clear fashion the principles of development so that he may understand the relation existing between the development of any particular form and that in other groups of animals.

Part one of this volume considers the many phases of development which the higher forms of animals pass through, and in this part one finds such processes as the germ cell cycle, egg and cleavage types, types of blastulae, endoderm formation, mesoderm formation, invertebrate larvae, egg and embryonic membranes, and other general embryological subjects considered comparatively and in detail. As an appendix to part one, a chart summarizing the embryological conditions of animals, a table of animal classification with examples of embryological significance are found.

In contra-distinction to part one, which concerns itself with comparative embryology, part two concerns itself with embryological problems. In this second part we find a well classified series of discussions of the most important theories in the field of embryology and problems such as sexual reproduction, normal and artificial parthenogenesis, paedogenesis, neotony, and polyembryony. These chapters bring up to date all available information in this age of experimental embryology dealing with these basic problems, and it is this part of the book, even more than the first, that will make it a necessary addition to the shelves of any biological library. Finally, three very valuable tools are added as a help to the student and more advanced worker—a glossary of embryological terms, including the source words and roots from foreign languages, definitions of terms used in embryology, and finally a bibliography of twenty-three closely-set pages, which will be very useful to all workers in the field and greatly appreciated generally.

In this book Doctor Richards has simplified and brought together in logical sequence a huge mass of details; he has correlated many diverse theories and explained them in the light of our latest knowledge; he has constructed tables giving more real information on a page or two pages than one would find in many whole texts. In brief, this book, with its 444 pages and the 224 text figures, brings together in one volume information heretofore unavailable in the English language.

A. I. ORTENBURGER

### Military control in Panama

Harry N. Howard's second book published by the University Press, *Military Government in the Panama Canal Zone*

is for sale at 50 cents. It is a volume of five essays analysing the military government of the United States in the Panama Canal Zone and explaining the treaty basis of American jurisdiction, the setting up and organization of the government in the zone from 1904 to 1912, the organic policy laid down by the Panama Canal act of 1912, and the modification in American policy during and following the World war. The book contains sixty pages bound in cloth.

### More on Duhamel

Camille Pitoulet, writing in *Mercure Universel*, published in Paris, for October, comments at length on the controversy aroused by George Duhamel's book *Scenes de la Vie future*, and carries translations of the comments published by *Books Abroad* for April.

"*Books Abroad* is a North American bibliographical publication of great originality. Founded in 1927 as a quarterly, it was not more than a modest pamphlet of thirty-two pages. Today it consists of 120 pages and possesses the unusual feature that it is supplied free—take note, noble and generous condemners of the country of the dollar!—to whoever may be interested in the wide world. Its editor, M. Roy Temple House of the University of Oklahoma, where *Books Abroad* is published, had enlisted my aid at its origin to collaborate and I contributed several articles. In its present form, this organ is a precious aid, for its vast information, to whoever is interested in the movement of contemporary ideas of the world. . . . And Seris, in addressing *Books Abroad* for his "vindication of American from Duhamelism" chose the ideal medium for doing so.

"M. Roy Temple House, as perfect a gentleman as there is, did not want to publish it without having referred to the source direct for reply or refutation." Duhamel did not choose to reply, however. But the discussion *Books Abroad* raised is now flourishing in Europe.

### Forgotten Frontiers

The University of Oklahoma Press is expecting to release early in December *Forgotten Frontiers* by Dr Alfred B. Thomas of the department of history. This important contribution to Spanish-American history (dealing with Spanish Indian policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza) has been selected by the Press to initiate its series of volumes on "The Civilization of the American Indian." It will have a cover design and jacket done by Ina Annette, formerly of the school of art, and will contain several extremely valuable and

hitherto unpublished contemporary maps of New Mexico and Arizona around the period of 1789.

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### Documentary sources

Cortez A. M. Ewing and Royden J. Dangerfield. *Documentary Source Book in American Government and Politics*. Dallas. D. C. Heath & Co. 1931. Price \$3.50.

One cannot help but be somewhat bewildered at the constant production of new works on various phases of American government, most of which are intended for use in the class-room. Hardly a year goes by in which at least one new text on American national government does not appear. While the production of source books and readings on the same subject hardly matches this record nevertheless the number of the latter has been constantly increasing. While much of this enterprise seems rather futile, to say the least, and one often searches in vain to find any fresh material or originality of treatment in these new volumes, I suppose it must be confessed that most of this activity among authors is not entirely to be depreciated. Certainly the perfect text on American government has not yet appeared and probably never will. The same holds true as to collections of documentary source material. Every instructor has his own ideas concerning the proper organization of a course in government, the highlights to be stressed, the conclusions to be drawn, and the general atmosphere which should pervade class discussion. Naturally such a teacher desires a text which will prove somewhat sympathetic to his own point of view. And if such text does not exist what is more natural than an ambitious man shall endeavor to remedy that lack and produce a text of his own?

It seems to me that most source books dealing with American government justify their existence because of sufficiently varying personalities. Naturally much of the same material is to be found in all of them. A work which neglected *McCulloch v. Maryland*, certain of the *Federalist* papers, or the New Jersey and Virginia Plans presented in the Constitutional convention would not prove very valuable. But an editor faced with the problem of condensing and assembling documents on American government within the covers of a single volume has a great many difficult decisions to make once he has included those outstanding papers which are forever associated with the political history of the United States. The legalistic point of view may be stressed or the author may perhaps choose to emphasize personalities, or favor an organization along strictly historical lines.

The production of an excellent book of readings is not then an easy task. But all in all, Messrs. Ewing and Dangerfield have done their work very well indeed. They have not slighted fundamental historical material yet they have succeeded in instilling a freshness into their work which has been lacking in practically all previous source books on the subject. They have shown an ingenuity in selection of material which is remarkable indeed. Their use of the *Congressional Record* is particularly to be complimented. Among the interminable dry pages of those dull volumes there are many fascinating and thrilling speeches and papers which illustrate the workings of our government fully as well as do the duller records. Borah's speech on the Parker nomination and likewise LaFollette's remarks on the Hughes nomination are good examples of this point. Such documents do make interesting reading. There can be no doubt of that. In no small part the secret of this spirited vitality of the material in Ewing and Dangerfield's work is the result of the emphasis they have placed on present day governmental records. It is all very well to require a student to read Washington's Farewell Address, Monroe's "Doctrine" speech, and certain of Chief Justice Marshall's decisions but there is a limit to the one hundred year old fare which the average student can digest. On the other hand he will read such things as Claude Bower's Keynote Address at the Houston convention and Lewis Gannett's article from *The Nation* entitled "The Big Show" and ask for more. In this respect an especially able piece of work has been done in selecting material from magazines and newspapers of very recent date. It might be well to mention at this point that the authors have allowed no small amount of their own "liberal" political philosophies to creep into their work. The names of LaFollette, Borah, Norris, etc., figure prominently in the excerpts from the *Congressional Record*.

One may disagree with the obvious attempt to keep legalistic material at a minimum. Supreme court decisions are about as few in number as is consistent with the nature of the volume. But when it is remembered how easily available are all of the leading cases in numerous compilations of supreme court decisions, it would seem foolish indeed to clutter up the pages of a source book with an abundance of such material.

About the highest praise which can be given this work of Ewing and Dangerfield lies in the fact that here is a book of readings to which an instructor can send his students without feeling that he is condemning them to hours of drudgery, that weary sort of work which lulls most young people

into a state of lethargy from which they are apt not to revive. Students have shown a very favorable response to this book, and that after all is perhaps one of the best tests by which to judge such a volume. ROBERT K. CARR.

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### Our changing earth

Chester A. Reeds, Ph. D. *The Earth, Our Ever Changing Planet*. New York, 1931. American Museum of Natural History.

The author is to be congratulated in his endeavor to achieve the impossible. In 120 pages, he has attempted to present an epitome of the science of geology. That this cannot be done is not his fault, but rather the fault of the subject. During the past few decades, geology has grown to such proportions that many fat volumes would not contain it.

Written primarily for the man in the street rather than for the professional geologist, the book will appeal to both classes of individuals.

The book contains ten chapters of well-written, concise, authoritative, up-to-the-minute information regarding the ever-changing planet upon which we live. The illustrations consisting of photographs and charts, many of them by the author, averaging one to the page, are well selected. The radio-active chart of geologic time prepared by Doctor Reeds on page 109, is well worth the price of the book.

The book will be of particular interest to University of Oklahoma people, for the reason that the author is one of the early graduates of this school. He is the eldest of the "Four Reeds Boys;" Chester, Clarence, Artie and Claude, all famous athletes. Doctor Reeds was graduated in geology at this university in 1905. He received his doctorate at Yale. Afterwards taught at Bryn Mawr, and now for many years has been at the American Museum at New York City, where he has recently been promoted to the curatorship of geology.

He is the best authority in the United States on varved clays, and has taken part in a number of exploring expeditions. During the past few years, he has been engaged chiefly in editing the volumes by Berkey, Andrews, Granger and others who were members of the Ray Chapman Andrews Asiatic expeditions.

CHARLES N. GOULD

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### In Saturday Evening Post

*The Saturday Evening Post* published early in December an interview with Governor Murray given George Milburn, ex '30, of Norman. It is called "Victuals and Battles."