is neither analytical in quality nor judicious in quantity. The style is verbose, and in places it is colloquial and ungrammatical. The author, however, shows that he is capable of being objective. One example of his objectivity is shown by his portrayal of Mrs. Kate Debs. This is especially commendable in view of a recent novel in which the wife of Debs is grossly misrepresented.

A further criticism of the book is that by giving all available facts and impressions about Debs it tends to obscure vital issues. There is no doubt, on the other hand, that this biography does supply the data out of which balanced conclusions can be deduced. These possible conclusions would be particularly relevant to present-day problems such as strikes, suppression of opinion, and intolerance.

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_Europe since 1914 in its World Setting._ By F. Lee Benns. (New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1949, seventh edition, pp. xx, 770, 103. Select bibliography, maps, illustrations, and index. $5.00.)

The demand for textbooks in recent and contemporary history continues to challenge historians to keep their writing up to the minute. Consequently the question arises as to whether such history can be as objective as that which awaits further sources of information and the attainment of proper perspective. Furthermore, by the time such a book is off the press new events often overshadow what was the latest information at the time the writer completed his manuscript. Despite the criticism of works in this category, it must be admitted that there is excellence in many of them, and that few historians equal and none surpass Dr. Benns in his capacity to produce a text that is so up to date and at the same time so free from bias.

The seventh edition of _Europe since 1914_ compares very favorably with the sixth. For one thing, it is much better proportioned. With almost one hundred additional pages, the revision begins on page 490 effecting a drastic reduction of about eighty-five pages in the story of the second world war; this welcome change makes possible a much more comprehensive treatment of the second postwar period with-
out making the book unwieldy. The maps and illustrations are the same except for one picture and for some rearrangements and, of course, for additions for the second postwar period; as in previous editions, they are very well chosen. Two tables of questionable value have been omitted. The bibliographies for each chapter are well selected; additional references have been inserted in the older chapters, and those in the new chapters are of equal fitness. The problem of keeping up to date is illustrated in the omission of the Goebbels Diaries in the section on Germany during the war—doubtless this is a matter of the time of publication.

The quality of the seventh edition is in keeping with that of the preceding ones. Dr. Benns' lucidity of style has made the work understandable to an unusual degree. His freedom from bias, even from undertones of prejudice, is more conspicuous in this than in the preceding edition. Some might find fault with the absence of any particular interpretation, on the ground that some students may be lost in the array of facts that such a work must necessarily present. But from the viewpoint of the reviewer, this policy increases the objectivity of the work.

In fact, it would be difficult to take issue with Dr. Benns on either his selection or organization. In the seventh edition he has made use of new sources of information to clear up such points as the failure of Anglo-Russian conversations in 1939 and the full provisions of the Russo-German agreements of that same summer. His attempt to keep up to the minute has quite naturally left some generalizations up in the air, as on page 750 concerning the probable future status of India. His topical arrangement of the second world war might be criticized: while undoubtedly the narrative of the European phases through the surrender of Germany, followed by a history of the Far Eastern War from 1941 to 1946, has the advantage of an unbroken and clear-cut treatment, cross currents are not quite so clear. This task, however, may well be that of the instructor rather than the writer. Dr. Benns' treatment of the controversial field of recent and contemporary European history has again been very adequate; students and teachers will await with anticipation an eighth edition of Europe since 1914.

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