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A history of American literature with a new purpose.—Most histories of American literature are largely compendious summaries of bibliographical and historical facts. A recent publication¹ in this field, however, attempts quite another thing. In place of the traditional summary the author has formulated a clear account of the men and movements most important in the intellectual history of America. In doing this Professor Boynton has traced the growth of our national spirit from its faint beginnings in pre-Revolutionary days through all the changing ideals of patriotism, marking the works of our poets, novelists, essayists, and dramatists. The style throughout is marked with a crispness and vivacity that are missing in too many textbooks in the same field. The author's scientific knowledge and scholarship are winningly displayed on every page of his book. Needless to say that these characteristics will go a long way toward fixing the facts in the minds of its readers.

The book abounds in what might be termed teaching aids. To each chapter are appended topics and problems for study, summaries of each man's output, available editions, and critical material—the latter for supplementary use and in no case as a substitute for first-hand study. There are maps, chronological charts, and an appendix containing a brief but exact characterization of those American periodicals which have done most service in stimulating American authorship.

A revised edition of an old book.—Users of Professor Bronson's *American Literature*² will be glad to know that it has been revised and enlarged. In the revision the author has brought the earlier chapters down to date and has added a large section on the literature since 1900. The new matter contains illuminating characterizations and a just evaluation of scores of books and authors of present interest. There has also been added to the appendix of the volume about forty pages from the less accessible but still significant authors. The bibliography has been thoroughly revised and the work is supplied with a detailed index.

The Great War.—Teachers of history in junior and senior high schools are spending more time on contemporary history than they did prior to 1917. One handicap in their efforts to do this is the scarcity of material adapted to the age and mental capacity of their students. For this reason they always welcome new material dealing with the Great War. Two books³ which bid fair to be helpful in teaching the war have just come to the attention of the writer. To have the story of the war as it appears in Professor Usher's book will be of great aid to the busy teacher. Furthermore, if sufficient time is devoted to the subject to justify the purchase of a text by each member of the class, the book will answer this purpose also. For this latter purpose the story is admirably presented, each

¹ PERCY H. BOYNTON, *A History of American Literature*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1919. Pp. v+513. \$2.25.

² WALTER C. BRONSON, *A Short History of American Literature*. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1900, 1919. Pp. ix+490. \$1.48.

³ ROLAND G. USHER, *The Story of the Great War*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. xvii+350. \$2.75. CORA W. ROWELL, *Leaders of the Great War*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. vii+336.