

The World Crisis
"THE WORLD CRISIS"
By Winston S. Churchill.

Out of the numerous post-mortems on the World War it would be difficult to point to one which, for sheer brilliancy, fascination and vivid, picturesque language, could be compared with this book. And yet, withal, it is real history, "inside dope" of the very highest quality and permanent value. Furthermore, it is no apologia; errors of judgment are frankly admitted. Indeed, not a few past "war leaders" have perhaps much more to apologize for than has Churchill, and his critics are only wise after the event. He gives away some interesting secrets and certainly kills the pet fiction of minor historians that Britain did not see the war coming and was consequently unprepared. If the Kaiser and Tirpitz thought they were stealing a march on Churchill and Lord Fisher, they were sadly mistaken. For three years before the great crash British statesmen had their eyes wide open and feverishly prepared for the inevitable after the failure of their "naval holiday" proposals to Germany. The prophetic soul and ruthless energy of Fisher re-created Britain's naval might against the coming ordeal, aided enthusiastically by Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty. The letters exchanged between these two men make delightful reading: "My beloved Winston . . . don't be a d-d ass. . . Sixteen inch guns and speed are what we want! Don't make any mistake about big submarines being obligatory. For God's sake trample on and stamp out protected cruisers and hurry up aviation!" Churchill paints a thrilling panorama in bold, swift strokes—from Agadir to Armageddon, ending with December, 1914, hence the Dardenelles tragedy is not dealt with in this volume. He reproduces a wonderful forecast of the battle of the Marne which he wrote in a State Paper in 1911; he gives intimate penportraits of Kitchener, Asquith, Lloyd George and Grey, pays generous tribute to the ill-used Prince Louis of Battenberg, depicts the romance of naval design and strategy with simplified technicalities, tells the story of his Antwerp adventure and how he wanted to be commander-in-chief; the struggle for the Channel Ports, the submarine dangers, Coronel and Falklands battles, besides a number of official documents. He puts no gloss on his undoubted interferences with naval and military authorities and experts and cheerfully shoulders whatever blame may be due to him. Future historians are bound to take particular notice of the light which is shed lavishly in this book.

Miss Winslow Talks With You

"PICTURE FRAMES"
By Thyra Sampter Winslow.
If you enjoy short stories which are not just the stereotyped model stories by all means read "Picture Frames." The writer has technique and a sense of the things readers want. In addition she is gifted with subtlety, frankness and sympathetic insight, and succeeds in making her reader share in these attributes if only temporarily. It is as if she put her arm through yours and persuasively pulled you to a window to watch the passing individuals through her eyes.

There are eleven "pictures" in "Picture Frames." The girl stories, "Little Emma," "Mamine Carpenter" and "A Love Affair," and "Birthday," are sympathetic and convincing, with none of the sentimentality usually forced upon old age in stories. Miss Winslow individualizes her old people.

"A Cycle of Manhattan" belongs in a class, or a book, by itself. It is a modern saga worthy of place in courses on Americanization. It has the material of a "Forsythe Saga," compressed and selected and trimmed down to almost skeleton form.

From the technical point of view two features of Miss Winslow's writing should stand out clearly even to the reader who reads solely for amusement—her remarkable development and use of "point of view"; and her snap and whiplike use of the short sentence at intervals in her writing.

Hannah Mitchell.

Not a Dull Line in Sight

"FIERY PARTICLES"
By C. E. Montague.

Concerning C. E. Montague we feel rather guilty. We had never read any of his things before, and when we found that "Fiery Particles" was a book of short stories we rather shied off. Then we read the first tale—its title is "Another Temple Gone" and then we sat back and have a sigh and grinned happily. We knew we were in for a pleasant evening—several of them, in fact, for we drew the reading of the rest of the book out as long as possible. It was not till the last story had been read that we began to feel guilty. The attack of conscience was obviously because we hadn't read any of his other books. Particularly during the past season of bad weather and worse reading. C. E. Montague would have been a great help during the period when we were alternately wondering whether it would ever be warm enough to change into light-weights and suffering dully under an infliction of novels of the worse sort. Yes, we have been shamefully remiss. The sixth sense, which all reviewers have, should have told us that here was an author who would please as few modern writers can. We can only apologize and try to make up for our laxness by praising "Fiery articles" as one of the most genuine bits we have tackled in these many moons.

If you don't like "Fiery Particles" there is no health in you.

Oh, by the way; several of the tales are told in dialect conversation

between a cockney, a Yorkshireman, and an Irishman. These three are soldiers. Anyone who says "Ah—Kipling!" will be summarily hanged by the neck until he sees the light which is that because Turner painted sunsets it does not necessarily follow that no other painter shall portray the orb of day rather than four-thirty P. M., daylight saving time.

F. Gregory Hartswick.
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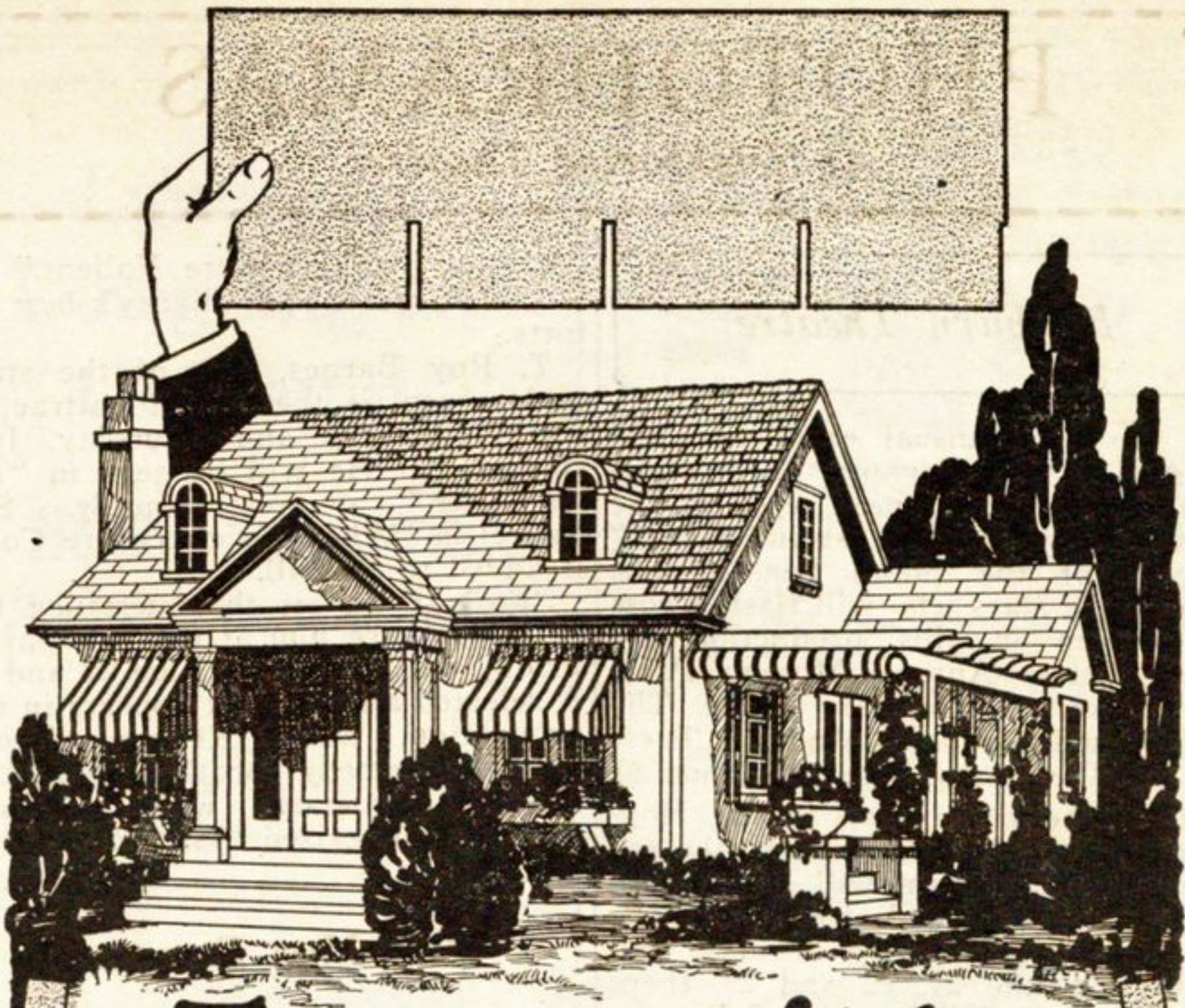
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