BOOK REVIEWS


These are two timely books. That by Hermens is a plea for reason to guide the settlement of the peace. The hatred and passions which had accumulated during World War I decisively influenced the peace that followed it. This fact, Mr. Hermens finds, was one of the chief reasons why that peace failed. Now he sees the danger that such feelings may again destroy the hopes of man. Public opinion in this country and in Britain has undergone a dangerous change. No longer is the War regarded as a fight against Hitlerism, fascism, and the Japanese war lords, but as a war against the peoples of the Axis countries, who were the very first victims of the tyrants. The events of the War and the passions engendered by them have given rise to distorted ideas about the peoples of the enemy countries, ideas which, if they would again determine the peace, would again cause it to fail. A peace based upon such notions would require for its enforcement the application of armed force for an indefinite period of time. The author believes that the peoples of the democratic countries would not only soon tire