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## NOTES AND REVIEWS

*Recollections of a Russian Diplomat. The Suicide of Monarchies (William II and Nicholas II).* By EUGENE DE SCHELKING. New York, the Macmillan Company, 1918. 327 pp.

The author aims to give an entertaining yet historically true picture of the domestic and foreign policies of Germany and Russia, beginning with the accession of Alexander III. In this book "men make their entrance and their exit from the European stage, not as the historical characters they have hitherto represented in the eyes of their audience, but as human beings, with all their weaknesses and foibles of ordinary every-day people." It was "the feebleness of Nicholas II which brought disaster to Russia and eliminated the Romanoffs from that throne, just as the insensate, egoistical and dynastic policy of William will inevitably eliminate the Hohenzollerns from among the monarchies of Europe, when the people of Germany realize the rôle he has played in deliberately planning the tragedy."

Mr. E. de Schelking is well qualified to write upon his subject for he was an important figure in diplomatic life from 1883 to 1903, having held the following diplomatic posts: First Secretary in Greece, France, Spain and Germany—both in Berlin and Munich—and for a time Legation Councillor at the Hague. In 1903 he left the diplomatic life and has since devoted his time to political journalism.

Half of the book is devoted to a discussion of the Russian policy, especially that which led up to the Revolution of 1917. In the chapter, "Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, The Fox of the Balkans" the author exposes the schemes and intrigues of the Bulgarian monarch, who, the author says, was neither more nor less than a traitor. He has "played such a sinister part in the European tragedy that he deserves a special pillory."

Since the author was personally acquainted with many of the important personages with whom his account deals there is added a touch of reality and interest which could be obtained in no other way.

CLARA E. SCHIEBER