



BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Big Four, and Others of the Peace Conference, by Robert Lansing (Houghton Mifflin), should be read in connection with the author's previous book, "The Peace Negotiations, a Personal Narrative," and covers some of the same ground. If it tells us nothing new or startling, it serves to confirm, on the best of evidence, impressions of the Paris and Versailles meetings that have now become a part of world-history. Mr. Lansing's analyses of Clemenceau, Wilson, Lloyd George and Orlando are clear and convincing. He shows us Clemenceau dominating the conference by sheer force of mind; Wilson outmaneuvered; Lloyd George clever, alert, but not very deep; and Orlando precise and lawyerlike. This book confirms the popular belief that the general scheme of the treaty was worked out by the British and French delegations without material aid from the Americans. As a consequence, the American delegation lost prestige. Mr. Lansing says that President Wilson, throughout his stay in Paris, treated his colleagues merely as a group of secretaries, or possibly as men of even less importance, and arrogated to himself all right to conduct negotiations in the American behalf.