

D. O. Corner

WHITCOMBE'S
VIVID HISTORY READER

GRADE VIII.

A History of the Modern World

A.—THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

They pass and smile, the Children of the Sword—
No more the sword they wield.
And O, how deep the corn
Along the battlefield!

R. L. Stevenson.

A War-Wearry World.—When the Treaty of Versailles was signed the Covenant setting up the League of Nations became the first chapter of a new volume of the World's history. The world was weary of war. For more than four years the greatest nations of the earth had been spending all their money and strength on destruction—on killing their fellow human beings, destroying homes and possessions, railways, factories, ships, and food supplies of all sorts. Every conceivable kind of human suffering was produced (both physical and mental) among many millions. Science had been used to develop barbarism. Many deep-thinking men and women of all countries had become convinced that if there existed an organization which could bring representatives of the different nations together to discuss matters which concerned all or most of them, then nations of the world would come to a better understanding, and disputes and wars would be avoided.