

"A certain number of people," she said, "are under the impression that we are giving aid to England. But we must face reality—we are being paid."

She declared that cash gifts would be less likely than loans to involve the United States in war. The sending of supplies to Britain had been helpful to the United States in that it had helped to stimulate industry in the interests of the United States national defence.

"I do not see there is much reason to talk about loans," Mrs. Roosevelt added. "We should not make the mistakes we made last time."

We agree with the wife of the American President—*quid pro quo* has been enforced in U.S.A. up to date.

#### £750,000,000 Orders for U.S.

According to the Special Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* the British Purchasing Commission has recently prepared a Master List of British War Orders totalling £750,000,000. The list includes combat planes, guns, tanks and munitions—and 60 "ships." No wonder Mrs. Roosevelt hesitates to the word loans in this connection. She is a downright lady and prefers to call a spade a spade.

#### Prisoners of War.

Our prisoners of war should be kept perpetually in mind. We have no faith that they are receiving the same humane treatment in Germany as that provided by our humane Government in England for enemy prisoners. It is well to know that the British Government have given the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva an assurance that ships carrying parcels for prisoners of war and containing food-stuffs, blankets, and underclothing will be allowed freely to proceed to Europe. The parcels are to be unshipped in Lisbon and transported and distributed by the Red Cross. The British Government also declared themselves ready to facilitate the importation in European countries of strictly medical and pharmaceutical products intended for the sick and wounded.

The latter will have to be very carefully watched for fear of diversion for German use.

British prisoners of war in Germany and Italy are to be supplied with 50 tons of parcels a week from South Africa at an annual cost of £250,000. The British Red Cross organisation will finance the scheme and the South African Red Cross will send the parcels direct.

The parcels will contain condensed milk, biscuits, cheese, sugar, tinned beef and fish, jam, cocoa, soup cubes, dried fruit, soap, and cigarettes. Clothing is being sent every three months.

#### Six Comforts that Navy Wants.

##### "Daily Telegraph" Woman Reporter.

Women who, like the Princess Royal, want to knit comforts for the Navy have a rather larger range of garments to choose from than in the case of the Army, whose knitters are restricted to four garments.

The Navy can take all that women can send in the way of two kinds of pullovers, polo necked and long-sleeved for the seamen, V-necked and sleeveless for the large number of men in a modern ship who do not dress as seamen. The Princess Royal is an expert knitter of pullovers, and her work is shown by the Navy League as models of how the garments should look.

Three other garments that women knitters can make in navy blue wool with the certainty that they will be welcomed are Balacava helmets, gloves and "comforters," as sailors call their mufflers. A further requirement for every man is a pair of sea-boot stockings.

## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Surgeon to Queen Mary, vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons to Middlesex Hospital, delivered the Bradshaw Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons on November 27th. He chose as his subject "Pride and Prejudice in the Treatment of Cancer."

Owing to the war, he said, many radiotherapy departments had been partly out of commission and the expert staffs depleted. Large parts of the population had been dispersed, continuity of treatment interfered with, and the "follow-up" of patients made difficult and unsatisfactory. He had found an undercurrent of talk: wild, uninformed criticism, and a tendency to the exaggeration of failures and over-statement of successes. There was indeed an atmosphere of "pride and prejudice," often the result of "first impressions," which was the title originally chosen by Jane Austen for her novel.

The present position was that in practically every part of the body, except the stomach and intestines, the treatment of cancer had become a radio-surgical problem. By specialisation the knowledge of what radium and X-ray treatment would do had steadily increased. There were grounds for believing that the incidence of cancer might be governed by an inherent susceptibility or lack of resistance and possibly also by a virus. General environmental factors, such as occupation or social conditions, might play some part in the causation and there was ample evidence that totally extraneous influences were often local essential causes.

The master key to success in the treatment of cancer was early diagnosis. Patients must be brought to realise that cancer is curable and thus led to seek advice without delay.

#### Need for a National Central Authority.

The next important step to early diagnosis was skill in clinical investigation, and great advances had been made in methods of examination which could help towards this end.

The Cancer Act provided a splendid opportunity. Regional schemes could not be formulated for some time, but there were two pressing needs which should be provided for without delay. One was the formation of a national central authority, based on a national centre, where the problem could be studied and guidance given to local authorities; the other was the provision for the training of radiotherapists. In his view there was a serious shortage of personnel. Those already experienced in this work should be released from the Services, and those anxious and fitted to take up the practice of radiotherapy as a career should be reserved from mobilisation. Salaried posts should be created and made attractive by adequate remuneration and good prospects of promotion. A director's post must carry the full status of a staff appointment. In university centres he should be given professional rank and he should not be barred from private practice in the institution.

#### WHAT TO READ.

##### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of Mme. Pilsudski.

"Me in War Time." Naomi Jacobs.

"Hobby Horse." Elinor Mordaunt.

"Nazism v. Christianity." Mario Bendisciotti.

"Andrew Marbell." M. C. Bradbrook and M. G. Lloyd Thomas.

##### FICTION.

"Sons of the Others." Philip Gibbs.

"The Ghost." R. H. Mottram.

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