

and relieve their wants: all these things shew how genuinely the nation has been stirred. And last, but by no means least, there has been the great quickening of interest which has stimulated the imagination and filled the minds of many who perhaps before had realised little outside their own immediate circle, with its petty round of joys and sorrows and excitements. Into such lives as these the war, with its great issues of life and death, has come like a messenger from a greater and nobler world, sweeping away things that are small and of no account and bringing the personal life into contact with the great life of the nation. Whatever may be the dangers of the war spirit; and I have no desire to underrate them, the result of the sacrifices necessary in time of war, sacrifices which fall more or less in some ways upon all, is unmistakable. It is seen in a strong, unselfish spirit, a determined self-devotion, a quickening of interest and sympathy, an imagination which can understand the stress and the suffering of others. These are the qualities—I think it is true to say it—which have been called forth during the past year.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

What is to be the result? Are they all to disappear? Are we to look back on the whole episode with a sense of relief that it is over, with a gratifying conviction that, on the whole, everyone behaved very well, and that we may go back to our comfortable lives again without that constant anxiety and sorrow? Is life to go on as if this great experience had never been? Or are we to try and remain at the higher level to which we have risen, to hold fast to the self-devotion, the strength, the quickened interest and imagination? These are grave questions and much depends for the future of England on the manner in which they are answered, for we are at the parting of the ways, and unless the good which the war has called out be held and confirmed, the dangers which it also has called forth will predominate, and there will be a slackening, a deterioration of the moral fibre. We must be either better or worse, we cannot remain as we are, for such an experience as we have passed through is a great responsibility. If we are to be better our soldiers must shew in their ordinary lives something of the self-discipline and the endurance which they have practised in time of war, and it is the more difficult task. Our citizens must exhibit in relation to their suffering and sinning fellow men and women the self-sacrifice and the imagination which they showed during the time of war. England must throw into the great world struggle against impurity and evil the measured strength and determination which she has shewn in the conflict she has just passed through. It is the law of God that a great opportunity must be either taken or refused. And a great opportunity is now before us.

OUR GREAT INHERITANCE.

In the sight of God the only right use of Empire is to carry on His work, to further His laws of righteousness; and, in spite of countless faults and stains we may humbly claim for the British race that it has done something in the past to fulfil this ideal. But in this latter age life has become more complicated, new difficulties have arisen, caused in part by our advancing prosperity, our increasing absorption in financial interests, and the overgrowing social and political influence of wealth. We want once again to put forward our strength if we are to rise adequately to the

task which is set before us. The Empire of England can only be righteous if England herself is righteous, if the hearts of her citizens, men and women alike, are set on the things which are of God. And so we may rightly come together, as in this week, to consider questions of foreign missions, of temperance, of education, of home life, of social reform, because in our right attitude and on our endeavour with regard to these questions great issues will depend. It has become more than ever impossible to lead lives of self-indulgence or of narrow pettiness in the face of this new realisation of the responsibility of our great inheritance. It is essential that we should realise more keenly what are the difficulties and sufferings of others, that we should consider more carefully what are the measures by which they may be altered and mitigated, that we should endeavour more strenuously to make such measures possible. Nothing is unimportant, every detail demands attention, everywhere through all kinds and through every branch of work there should be a quickening force. It is righteousness and righteousness only that exalteth a nation, and it is above all things in the progress towards a higher ideal of duty and of love that the command comes, "Speak unto the people of Israel, that they go forward." May Almighty God give to all those who are here to-day the strength to go forward in this path, and "endure as seeing Him Who is invisible." "Rising again the President suggested that the conference should pass a resolution of sympathy with the Queen of Italy. Italy had recently formed a Women's Council so that their own Council might be termed a sister Council. She moved "That this meeting desires to express its most respectful and heartfelt sympathy with Her Majesty Queen Margaret of Italy, and its sorrow at the grave and terrible suffering which has been placed upon her through the assassination of her husband the King of Italy." Lady Louise Loder seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

In the small space at our disposal we cannot give even an outline of the many able Papers and spirited discussions which were listened to in the vast Dome and the Pavilion Rooms, and, as the Papers are to be printed at an early date, and will be obtainable at the office of the Union, 59, Berners Street, London, W., we will touch only on those which dealt with nursing affairs.

THE EDUCATION OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

There was a crowded attendance on Tuesday afternoon, when Mrs. Humphry Ward read her paper on "The Training of Afflicted Children." Mrs. Humphry Ward, who was very cordially greeted on rising, said her paper was described as dealing with "The Training of Afflicted Children," but it only touched upon one section of that great subject—that of the day school education of children—and her claim to deal with the matter so far rested mainly upon the careful observation of a single experiment in which she had been personally concerned. In February, 1899, rather more than eighteen months ago, a day school was started at the Passmore Edwards' Settlement in Tavistock Place, Bloomsbury, in conjunction with the London School Board, Mrs. Ward said that at the present moment the whole subject of school training of invalid children was assuming considerable import-

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