

THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,460

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1916.

Vol. LVI

EDITORIAL.

THE SAVING OF CIVILIZATION.

To-day we have in our midst the representative of the most democratic government in the world, Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, whose stirring eloquence finds a response in thousands of hearts in this country, which beat in unison with the manly and straightforward policy brought by him from overseas, charged with the vitalizing ozone which dominates and invigorates those whose lives are spent in open spaces, and to whom sincerity and simplicity of aim are of greater importance than all the sophistries spun by politicians to veil a policy of expediency.

The burning words of Australia's Prime Minister have been kindled by the torch set aflame by the gallant deeds of his countrymen. The body of Anzac may crumble to dust in Gallipoli. Its indomitable spirit still remains to inspire others with a like patriotism.

Speaking to wounded Australian soldiers in this country Mr. Hughes said:—

"When we saw your wounded comrades return to our cities, when we saw some of them bent and twisted and scarred, and yet saw that indomitable spirit of cheerfulness shining through it all we realized what manner of men Australia had produced. You have done well, you have done a great thing for Australia, and you have done a great thing for civilization. . . . There is not a man who would care to live unless he could live as a free man. . . . The people of all parties in Australia would feel life an intolerable burden if Prussian influence became predominant.

"If I thought this war was a war merely for aggrandizement, for more wealth, for greater areas of land, for material things we desired to grasp in our predatory clutch, I would never raise my voice for the

dispatch of one man from Australia. . . . It is because civilization itself has to be saved from destruction; because the great principles of right were being assailed by the spirit of military despotism that has crystallized itself in the German Empire, as we know it to-day, because of this intolerable danger that Australia is at war. I believe the world came to a point, and is still at a point, where the parting of the ways is clear and distinct, where every free man has to decide whether he will turn to the right or to the left—to the left where ignoble peace would lead to a future of intolerable slavery, or to the right where, coming through a veritable hell, he might win a firm and lasting foundation upon which civilization can rear a noble and lasting edifice.

When the guest of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, Mr. Hughes voiced his convictions with equal force, and was not afraid to urge upon that assembly of business men the importance of noble ideals as well as business acumen—

"We must" he said "cut out the cancer of German influence in our trade and industry. It is a policy of destruction. It is imperative, it is urgent, but it is only preliminary. We must not only destroy but we must build up. . . . I am advocating. . . . a fundamental change in our ideas of government as applied to economic and national matters. The whole concept of modern statesmanship needs revision. . . . The British Empire as an organized Empire, organized for trade, for industry, for economic justice, for national defence, for the preservation of the world's peace, for the protection of the weak against the strong. That is a noble ideal. It ought to be, it must be ours."

The voice is that of a leader of men, it will carry far, and let us hope that men in this material age, will be inspired by, and follow its teaching, and purify their souls,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)