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EDITORIAL.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Our Christmas Number once again carries to our readers near and far our Christmas Greetings. Whether they are at work in civil, naval, military or air hospitals, in prisons, in the homes of the rich or the poor, as health workers, or overseas, in the King's Dominions, or in foreign countries, this Journal carries to them our heartiest good wishes for prosperity and happiness in their work and lives. During the war we looked forward with joy to the years when peace should be declared, and we should once again celebrate the merry Christmas to which memory turns with affection and pleasure.

Nevertheless, though, thank God, the Great War is over, a shadow still lies across our Christmas while such problems as the after care of the sick and wounded, industrial unrest, unemployment, the housing shortage and the Irish question remain unsolved. Our sword is sheathed against our enemies, but a large section of our kinsmen in Ireland are in rebellion, and battle, murder and sudden death are common occurrences. How can we have a "merry" Christmas while in our hearts there is the knowledge of the men who fought for, and saved the Empire, out of work, and playing in the streets for a living; of the little children for whom there is no prospect of Christmas fare? Well will it be if there is fuel to warm, and food to satisfy, their cold and hungry little bodies. But deeper down than merriment on the surface we may treasure in our hearts the peace and good will of which the angels sang two thousand years ago, and we can do all in our power to make them a reality here and now. We should not let the season pass without asking ourselves what we have done, are doing,

are going to do, to better social and economic conditions, and to further peace on earth, and good will towards men.

"Reign in righteousness, Redeemer,
Grant us, sons of God on earth,
Brother hearts that beat together
For the things of truer worth;
Hating what is mean and wrongful,
Selfishness and private greed,
Gaining here that wider spirit
Conscious of the brethren's need.

* * *

Reign in righteousness, Redeemer,
Till all earth and heaven are one;
One in truth and high endeavour,
Earth's huge wrongs for ever gone;
Human tears wiped off from sorrow
Causing human hearts to break,
And a Voice cries from God's presence,
'All things new, behold, I make!'

"Reconstruction" is the word of the moment, we use it glibly, but what are we doing to further it? Progress is disappointingly slow, and if we are students of social economy we shall realise why. Because if you want to construct a better world, to provide houses in which it is possible to rear A 1 men and women, and pure food on which to nourish them, you are up against the profiteer, the slum landlord, the man who adulterates the goods which he sells that he may profit the more. Greed of this kind will not be overcome without a struggle. We may therefore take heart of grace that at least we are not stagnating at the present time, for that would mean that we had ceased to put up a struggle against evil conditions. Therefore the very unrest which is so disturbing an element of our daily life may be a token of progress.

Christmas brings with it once again its special privileges and responsibilities, and the more we endeavour to absorb its spirit, and to diffuse around us peace and good will, the more completely shall we be taking our share in the construction of a world fit for heroes to live in.

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