

THE WAR.

But come, ye sons of Libertie,
Columbia's offspring, brave as free !
In danger's hour, still flaming in the van,
Ye know and dare maintain the royalty of Man.
ROBERT BURNS : " Libertie—A Vision."

The Call of Patriotism.

Since our last issue victory has rewarded our valiant troops, and in the distance can be clearly distinguished the triumphant note "Cease Fire." But do not let us forget that every hour, night and day, our young men on the threshold of life are dying for us. It is a terrible sacrifice, and it is incredible that there should still be those amongst us who have failed to respond to the call of patriotism, and who are content to live in comfort on the valour and through the deaths of brave men.

A Warrior Statesman and the "First Lady."

Our country has been honoured by the visits of two great people recently—Field-Marshal Smuts, of South African fame; and Mrs. Eleanor F. Roosevelt, as potential a personality as the great President of the United States, whose wife she is.

Thanks to the *Daily Telegraph*, the great Address delivered by Field-Marshal Smuts before Members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, has been issued in pamphlet form, of which we shall all secure copies to file and for friends.

To quote a memorable prophecy :—

"Once the time has come to take the offensive and to strike while the iron is hot it would be folly to delay, to over-prepare, and perhaps miss our opportunity. Nor are we likely to do so—of that I feel satisfied."

Here are other extracts :—

"One occasionally hears idle words about the decay of the country, about the approaching break-up of the great world group we form. What folly and ignorance, what misreading of the real signs of the times ! In some quarters what wishful thinking.

"It is true that this greatest human experiment in political organisation, this proudest political structure of time, this precedent and anticipation of what one hopes may be in store for human society in the years to come, this Commonwealth is being tested as never before in its history.

Standing the Test.

"But is it not standing the test? Is not this free and voluntary association, is not this world-wide human co-operation to-day holding together more successfully than ever before under the most searching test?

"We have now reached the fourth year of this war, and the defence phase has now ended. The stage is set for the last, the offensive phase.

"The final alignments both of the Allies and our enemies have been made. Resources have been developed and mobilised on a very large scale; ours still on the increase, those of the enemy on the decline.

"We are approaching the point when both on the war fronts and on the home fronts in enemy countries the situation is ripening for far-reaching developments."

The pamphlet reproducing the speech can be obtained from the Publisher, the *Daily Telegraph*, Fleet Street, E.C.4. Price 1d., or 2d., post free.

The First Lady in the Land.

Mrs. Eleanor Franklin Roosevelt, wife of the illustrious President of the United States, the "First Lady in the Land," when at home, has been enthusiastically welcomed in this country during her tour of inspection of women's work for war. As the honoured guest of the King and Queen at

Buckingham Palace she has renewed the friendship formed with our Royal Family at Washington in 1939, and through marvellous energy has seen more in a month of what women are doing for ultimate victory than an average person would see in a year. Moreover, she has seen the devastation in our cities—the damage to our glorious churches and institutions—and has come into touch with all manner of men.

The American troops in England and in Northern Ireland were, of course, specially favoured, as they should be. It is to be regretted, however, that the Nursing Profession had no opportunity of paying special honour to this sympathetic guest who has expressed the warmest admiration for the work our women are doing, with a promise that it will be duly reported to the women in the United States, who are eagerly organising in their thousands in support of a civilised future.

Quite recently the *American Journal of Nursing* reported a picturesque ceremony in the beautiful garden of the American Red Cross in Washington when decorations were awarded to six nurses who were in active service at Bataan and Corregidor. The citation ribbons were awarded by the Assistant Secretary for War. The Army Air Force Band played. There was a colourful line-up. Representatives from all the Washington hospitals made a very distinguished company.

Later nine other Army nurses who returned from Bataan and Corregidor were given similar decorations at a luncheon at Washington at which Mrs. Roosevelt was a guest, and at which it was stated :—

"Nurses are the one group of American women who can go up to the battle lines and face the fire of the enemy side by side with the men. It is they who must represent at the front all womankind in this war."

The final speaker, Mrs. Roosevelt, referred to the nurses who have not yet volunteered, as well as those who "have measured up to the most exalted concepts of duty and devotion." She said in part : "As I stand here in this quiet garden and look at the grass and trees and the sky, I know how easy it is to be lulled into forgetfulness of all that's happening outside this pleasant place. But that must not be. We must not forget that ugly, mis-shapen, predatory forces roam the world, threatening to destroy this and every garden spot on earth. We must not forget that our sons, brothers, husbands, sweethearts, have gone out to defend this grass, these trees, this sky. We must not even forget that some of them will never come back from the fight. And you nurses who have not yet volunteered to serve, you must not forget that you have it within your power to bring back some who otherwise surely will not return.

"Are you saying that I am just making another speech. That I've been asked to make it because of my position. Then remember I am also a mother, I have four sons in the Armed Forces. Let that give testimony to my sincerity. I ask for my boys what every mother has a right to ask—that they be given full and adequate nursing care should the time come when they need it. Only you nurses who have not yet volunteered can give it."

French Children Saved from Starvation.

Grumblers in this country (if there are any), says the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury*, should be given a chance to talk with the refugees from France who have found shelter and a new life in Leeds.

A friend who visited one family found the mother "overwhelmed" by the amount of food to which her ration cards entitled her. She had known what it was to eat mangel-wurzels in small quantities day after day as her sole food, and she had stood in queues from 5 a.m. to midday to obtain 1 lb. of dried beans for the children. The baby

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