

has not been forgotten, and aptitude for war has not been lost.

### GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD HABITS.

Military training is designed, finally, to promote a sound physique and a better general health (such as is seen in Switzerland, in Germany, in Scandinavia), in those places where industrialism and commercial conditions are threatening general health and are impairing national physique. You cannot eradicate the military spirit of the schoolboy; you can by military discipline regulate and chasten it and turn him from a hooligan into a self-contained, restrained and self-respecting person, of active habits, of punctuality, of obedience, of silence, of all those virtues in which democracy and unrestrained liberty are weakest, and in which, therefore, the present age is specially deficient.

For military training is the training compensatory of the foibles and the weaknesses of our age and our political system; antithetic to the virtues of our age, and therefore for us antiseptic: antiseptic against the excesses of our own systems and our own shibboleths. In an age and a country wholly divorced from militarism, military virtues can do no harm, but only good; in an age of education and free thought we want as an offset to their abuses habit and fixed thought; as an offset to democracy and liberty, we can put up with something of the spirit of obedience and something of the spirit of service, qualities which belong to the ages of authority, but which, if they have any home left to them in the world to-day, find it in the military life and type. We want these qualities even more against ourselves than against any possible external foe. If there turn out to be no external foe, all the better. We have the qualities for our own souls' good, without all the miseries, great and small, of war. Each of these reasons is sufficient in itself to justify the military training of the young. Their cumulative effect is all the greater and is writ large in history, both negatively and positively; indirectly in the nations that have gone down to ruin, with all their genius, just for want of military training and military spirit; directly in the nations that have recovered their self-respect and their place in the sun, like Prussia, once so little, now so great, just because they showed that spirit and had the patience to practise that wholesome discipline.