

Notes and Comments

By Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.

A GREAT AMERICAN

THE passing of Theodore Roosevelt took place in a manner that no doubt would have been his own choice in so far at least as he, an embodiment of vital force and energy, was not called on to drag out a weakened existence or "lag superfluous on the stage" after he had ceased to be a factor in his generation. To have lingered thus would have been galling to his impetuous soul, though he would have faced it with the unshaken courage of a man of faith. For he was a man of faith, but believed intensely with the Apostle James that faith without works is dead. He added to his faith the manly determination to live it out in practical endeavour. He believed that it was not enough for a man to be good; he must be good for something. The following extract from one of his famous addresses is a clear statement of his creed:

"Virtue by itself is not enough, or anything like enough. Strength must be added to it, and the determination to use that strength. The good man who is ineffective is not able to make his goodness of much account to the people as a whole. No matter how much a man hears the word, small is the credit attached to him if he fails to be a doer also; and in serving the Lord he must remember that he needs to avoid sloth in his business as well as cultivate fervency of spirit."

Roosevelt undoubtedly did much to raise the moral standards of life in public service, and became in a peculiar sense the apostle of the "square deal" for every man, regard-

less of race or social station. And he will be gratefully remembered by us as the first man in the United States to declare against the aggressive policy of Germany and to call upon the American people to live up to their birthright and fight for the freedom of the world.

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THE AMPUTATION CLUB

When one thinks of that struggle against the terrific war-machinery of the Hun, he invariably has rising before his eyes the men who gave their bodies to be broken that their homes and their Empire might survive. Some of these men in their mortal forms rest in Flanders fields or in the vast and wandering graves of the battlefronts by land or sea. But some of them have come back, maimed for life, to take their places again in the ranks of civilian life. In Vancouver there is a club composed of the men who suffered amputation in limb, but who do not propose that the physical handicap is going to cast them out into the human waste-heap. These men are splendidly alive. It was my privilege recently to be a guest at the first annual dinner of their club. If anyone had asked if they were downhearted, the thunderous denial would have made the windows rattle. Among the survivors of the Great War these men must be placed by us on a peculiar and special Roll of Honour. They are the shattered but unconquered representatives of the gallant host that had to convince Germany of sin by the only argument she would understand—the cold argument of steel.