

the magnitude and wide bearing of the issue ; but unless from those who are better informed a knowledge of the meaning of the conflict spreads through the rank and file of our army, we shall fail to achieve the concentration, the unity, and the fervour which are naturally to be found in nations schooled to military discipline and service by long training and taught through two generations to 'think to order'. 'Munitions of war,' yes. But we need the weapons of the spirit as well as bread for our soldiers and ammunition for our guns.

As Englishmen we are all at some disadvantage when we are called upon to state our ideals. Our native inclination is to do the right thing and make no fuss. We are shy of using large language, and of claiming to be better than other people. We prefer to justify our action in off-hand language as 'playing the game' or to speak lightly of our responsibilities as 'part of the day's work', and we are perhaps unduly reluctant to go beyond the opportunism of the particular occasion or to appeal to fundamentals. We gain by this, and we lose. We gain something in that cheerful and undefeated spirit which has been so splendidly displayed on many fields in this war, not 'sicklied o'er by the pale cast of thought'; we gain in freshness, in elasticity of mind, in initiative and enterprise. We do not take ourselves too seriously. One result of this is that our enemies call us hypocrites when we do on occasion state a principle, and careless-minded and decadent when we refuse to wear our heart upon our sleeve.

But there is some loss on the other side. We have been too little in the habit of thinking things out. We have often omitted to ask ourselves or to teach our children what our national inheritance means and what England stands for in the world. We have rejoiced in