

## THE WAR AND THEOLOGY

It is an accepted commonplace that nothing can be quite the same again, after the war. Men and women will no doubt fall into the old ruts, and take up once more the familiar round of duties, but they will no longer be the same men and women. They will mostly be sadder, perhaps wiser, and certainly poorer. Many of them, too, will be conscious of a changed mentality, a more sober mood, and a deeper insight into things. So they tell us that the war will affect our religious outlook. Even in France there are signs of an awakening ; and in this country those who are best able to judge anticipate some real renewal of religious interest and devotion. There is at least a possibility of this, and a right use of the opportunity by the Churches may make sure of it. But, whatever may be the case in regard to religion, we may assert quite confidently that the war will bring about great changes in Theology. In this department, at any rate, our indebtedness to Germany cannot be disputed, and any alteration in the relations between the two countries, whether in practice or in sentiment, cannot fail to influence the course of our theological development. Already advantage is being taken of the present crisis by those whose fear of German theology is greater than their knowledge of it. They argue that British theology has been over-germanized, and that, now that our eyes are opened to the true character of the German spirit, we had better have done with this obsession once and for all. But debts are not