

## INTRODUCTORY

difficult to believe when we know the misdeeds of their armies and the carnival of cruelty and lust and murder in which they indulged in their career of conquest.

The outbreak of the war seems to have been a welcome signal not only to the German army, but also to all classes of civilian Germans, to throw aside all moral restraints, and to indulge themselves in all manner of wickedness. While to France and Britain and the other allied countries the war acted as a moral tonic and stimulus, and brought out all their noblest natures, to Germany it meant moral dissolution and the all but total collapse of national morality.

This seems at first thought all the more strange when we recall the fact that Germany more than any other nation within recent times has attempted the moral education of her people. There seems to have been something radically wrong that her elaborate system should have proven so entirely futile. The conclusion seems inevitable that the Germans either have failed completely in the adoption of the right means to the desired end, or that they have had a totally inadequate conception of the