

I now turn to what are, in some respects, the two most important speeches which have been delivered during the last few days, one by Lord Robert Cecil, and the other by Dr. Nansen. Both of these gentlemen have names which will always live, I think, in the history of the League of Nations. Both of them have taken a part in the inception of this great Society, or in the conduct of its first meetings, and its first years of activity, of the most distinguished kind, ~~and~~ ^{has} which/added lustre, I think, even to a meeting like this. They have adopted a tone of most sympathetic consideration for the deliberations of the Council, but they have quite properly, and quite rightly, introduced in a manner of which I am the very last to complain, certain comments and criticisms on which I think it would be desirable that some Member of the Council at all events, should say a few words. It is right that criticisms should be passed upon the Council by the Assembly if occasion seems to require it. It is perfectly true that in many of its functions the Council is as independent of the Assembly as the Assembly is of the Council, but it is an essential part of our organisation that there should be free speech and free comment ^{by} ~~of~~ both these great organs of the League, and as long as that free speech and free comment is carried on in the spirit ^{which has animated} ~~accepted~~ Lord Robert Cecil and Dr. Nansen, I am sure no Member of the Council will ever have cause of complaint. If I devote myself simply to the criticisms they have made, I hope they will not think I regard those as the most important parts of their speeches, but I do not deal with the other parts ^{not} because I do not agree with them, but because I think the sentiments expressed throughout all they have said could not certainly be improved upon, either in themselves or in the method of giving expression to them.

Now, gentlemen, the criticisms are naturally of two kinds, criticisms with regard to what we have done, or are doing, and

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