

## NATIONAL IDEALS<sup>1</sup>

It may seem inopportune at this moment to be discussing such an abstract subject as 'national ideals'. We are continually told, and rightly told, that we must think of nothing but fighting the enemy until we have thoroughly defeated him: that the one thing necessary is 'munitions of war': that we must not consider terms until the enemy is beaten to the ground. I cannot express too strongly my concurrence with this view. Day by day we learn more of the immense organization and the determined spirit of the enemy. Every nerve must be strained to meet the forces—material and moral—which we have to face. And yet even if that be so, what could be more relevant to the situation or indeed more imperiously demanded of us than that we should examine our resources and take stock of our national possession in the spiritual as well as in the material sphere? We believe—the vast majority of us believe—that, whatever the immediate occasion of this war may have been, it is at bottom a conflict of principles, of ideals: and if that be so, it cannot be amiss to consider what the principles are for which as a united people we stand—Mother Country, Dominions, Crown Colonies, and India alike—side by side with our allies, against the military forces, long and carefully prepared, of Central Europe. It cannot indeed be expected that all who are fighting on our side will realize to the full

<sup>1</sup> An address given at University College, Nottingham, on May 5, 1915.