

CHARIOTS OF FIRE

as all the nations in willing unison bring into it their honour and their glory, as to Zion of old.

Now it is plain that the forces against any settlement of this kind are enormous. Some of these have been hinted at already, but the real opposition will come from distempers of the spirit. It is these that lie at the root of all the manifestations which distress us. So much of the world, so much of our own world, is selfish and apparently beyond the reach of ideal considerations. It has been a little disappointing in the last few days to read the attacks upon Dr. Lyttelton for his address at St. Margaret's. The patronizing admonitions of papers usually sympathetic to the search for a Christian ethic have been almost harder to bear. Here was an attempt to put Britain on fair terms, not with Germany, but with the rest of the world, an attempt to show the sort of policy which we must follow if we are to prove ourselves sincere in fighting against the German passion for dominion, and, behold, an outcry bursts forth from every side that the Head Master of Eton is pro-German! Is it impossible for us to apply to ourselves the measure we mete out to others? Dr. Lyttelton's whole thought was tentative; is it a sort of treachery even to discuss the future? If it be stated that such a speech does harm in Germany, what must we say of much 'patriotic' speaking and writing, which strengthens the resistance of all good Germans by convincing them that we aim at nothing less than the root and branch destruction of their Fatherland? What of the articles which alarm other nations by their unconscious revelation of the selfishness of certain of our 'imperial' thinking? Certainly many who held their peace were grateful that a prominent man should be so outspoken and that the country should be forced to think. But the fact that such an appeal to British fairness was so easily misunderstood, shows how reluctant are many minds among us to examine the practical bearing of the ideals we profess. At the same time we must admit that the achievement we seek is stupendous, and can only be secured by an immense concentration