

File under
Gifford

THE CHRISTIAN AND WAR.

It is very difficult to criticize an essay which one cannot help feeling attempts to deal conscientiously with a most complicated question, yet it is necessary that any solution which is to have the support of Christians as a whole should be able to bear the very closest scrutiny.

There is no doubt that the essay contains several propositions with which if detached from their context we can readily agree.

1. War brings in its train much moral harm and physical suffering.
2. War as a moral drill or a biological purge is unnecessary.
3. The Christian churches have never done anything of importance either to prevent war or to stop it.

(Sylvanus Thompson "A Not Impossible Religion")

Unfortunately however when we come to the essays presentation of facts regarding war, to the economic and political theories which we must accept if we are to follow its argument and to its ethical views regarding war, we find that none of them are such as to encourage general approval of its proposed solution.

(1) The facts regarding war.

There is an effort throughout the essay to show two things:

- (a) That war led to wicked and lying propaganda.

We find a very direct defence of the enemy soldier aimed at leaving the general impression that there was not much in the stories of "atrocities" apart from air-raids in which everyone was equally guilty. The writers do not contend that there were none. They pass over them.