

even though I was physically unable to go, yet I should go. And that same feeling did operate to send back to the ranks many a man who had been discharged for wounds. For these thoughts and experiences of mine are those of all soldiers who have had a bad shaking-up. I have talked to hundreds on the subject and all accounts agree.

The first year was the worst. It took all my powers of concentration, all my will-power, to keep me at my tasks. It was not that I wanted to do anything else—I did not know what I wanted to do—but I did not want to do what I was doing. And even now, as I write this, I find that I must drive myself to an extent that was wholly unnecessary before the war, even when I was on an uncongenial task. And I love this one; it is my supreme interest in life.

It is that terrible restlessness which possesses us like an evil spirit, the indefinite expression of a vague discontent, the restlessness of dying men, little children and old soldiers, and which I fear expresses itself in many inconsistencies.

#### THE WOUNDS OF THE SOUL.

The returned soldier is not a statistic: he is a man sometimes crippled by war in a way that all may see, sometimes invisibly crippled, perhaps even in the head, but always with a new slant on life that is hidden to others and probably to himself. The passionate protest we feel when we contemplate wrong conditions in our own country is sometimes nullified by a certain illogical quality of viewpoint, forced on us by the abnormality of the life we have led. We are the victims of a set of evil experiences which have done us no good except to force on us, through no merit of our own, the broader vision that the raw depths of horror bring to men. And that is not the broader vision of the traveller in new countries, unless the countries are of the mind. It is that broadness of vision which belongs to the mind that has become acquainted in all the unlovely details of an intimate contact with all the shocking barbarity of war and its upsetting of all old and cherished thought.

It is a question whether the vision gained will offset for the soldier the loss of much of the sweetness of life,