

## GENERAL

In spite of what has been said as to the inventiveness of war, the late war, so Sir Douglas Haig has told us, has not given any new principles of warfare. Similarly, in its general effect upon the British Empire, it does not seem so far to have created anything that is fundamentally new ; it has not overturned and revolutionized the past. What it has done has been greatly to magnify, widen, and accelerate tendencies and movements which were already in being. Magnifying has been its distinctive feature and its special work. Flying, already an accomplished fact before the war, has become an infinitely greater fact, and as the result, the diminution of distance, already in process, is being carried forward at an increased rate. Democracies have been made more democratic ; young nations have grown alike in consciousness and in reality of nationhood ; equality has been extended in all directions, to race, class, and sex ; colour prejudice has been abated : the strength of labour has greatly grown : the claims of women have been largely met and universally recognized. Because the armies were on such a colossal scale, therefore conscription became a practical and living issue. The fact that British conquests of almost, if not wholly, unprecedented magnitude were the consequence of a war into which Great Britain entered for purely defensive purposes, has provided a magnifying glass under which to detect the true germs of former wars, and correctly to analyse causes and effects of past history. In a word, this war, in expanding and fructifying, rather than uprooting and reversing, has produced peculiarly British results for the British race—no doubt because it is the British race.