

Britain beyond the seas equally with the Mother of them all. I cannot therefore be wrong in the conviction that it appeals with special force to the principles, the sympathies, and the traditions of the "Eighty Club."

DISCUSSION AND CRITICISM.

In the discussion which followed my address on the 20th ultimo, some difficulties were raised which in themselves indicated that an interest was awakened in the subject which I had the honour to submit. All the speakers were agreed as to the urgency, in the interests of Imperial unity, for freer and fuller intercourse between each one of the oversea British communities, and between all of them and the United Kingdom. The practical value of the underlying idea of a system of State-owned globe-girdling cables, as a means of consummating this object, was admitted. It was fully recognised that facilities should be provided for the systematic distribution over the Empire of information on every subject of Imperial interest. Moreover, some of the speakers attached so much importance to the regular and full dissemination of such information that they regarded the cost of accomplishing that purpose as entirely secondary.

THE POLICY SUGGESTED.

The burden of the criticisms by the speakers was the fear that in practice it would be no easy matter to arrange for the selection and transmission of news to be cabled from day to day or from week to week so as to give general satisfaction. As this matter presents itself to my mind, the first thing necessary is the appointment of a proper controlling authority and impartial tribunal. In my view the first consideration is an efficient and responsible Board of Control with headquarters in London, assisted by branch Boards in the several oversea communities which have been referred to. I am satisfied that there would be no difficulty in each Government selecting