

## BIOLOGY AND WAR

which we believe to be righteous, every energy should be brought to bear, 'with a single mind and with concentrated purpose, in order to achieve, successfully and gloriously, the end we have in view.' But it behoves us also to order our minds so that the issue may work towards a victory over the evil (in ourselves as well as in others) which makes war possible between Christian and civilized nations.

If this war brings racial impoverishment, as it seems bound to do, what counteractives are possible? (a) We may perhaps look for a more marked disapproval of selfish forms of celibacy and a stronger encouragement of chivalrous marriages. (b) There may spring up a freshened enthusiasm for all-round fitness and a high standard of health, and it must be granted that all improvements of 'nurture' in the widest sense are to the good as long as it is clearly recognized that veneering does not make bad wood sound. Perhaps our losses may strengthen our resolution to face the national wastage due to tuberculosis, and to improve the conditions that are in part to blame for the evils which most weaken us as a nation. (c) Some clearer understanding of what selection means may lead us to scrutinize the retrenchments which the costliness of the war will necessitate. To economize upon the nobler super-necessaries means crippling such super-men as painters and musicians. May we not try pinching ourselves in our comforts before we begin starving our sons? (d) What the biologist is most concerned with is the natural inheritance of the race, which is fundamental, and in this regard the outlook cannot but be gloomy, when Britain is losing many of the very best of her sons. But we are also concerned with our social heritage, which is supreme, with for instance our traditions and ideals of honour, veracity, courage, justice, and goodwill among men. It rests with us, each in his own way, to try to secure that if our natural inheritance is impoverished, our social heritage may be enriched.