

ing on this we shall in future be more appreciative of the blessings of democracy, even with its attendant muddling and inefficiency. Well may we pray to be delivered from the blessings of kultur and efficiency if they must be acquired by the sacrifice of freedom, of honor, and of those principles of religion, ethics and morality which have served in the past as standards by which men and nations are judged.

In the presence of these great events monopolizing the attention and absorbing the energies of our people, all other interests fade into insignificance. And yet we must not neglect "the daily round, the common task," as we look with confidence beyond the present struggle, but prepare ourselves in every department of our national life for the stern competition of the period of reconstruction and advancement which will inevitably follow.

On this occasion we miss the familiar faces of many of our colleagues who in answer to their country's call are now on duty overseas, in the Motherland, in Flanders, France, Greece and Egypt, and we are proud of their record. "The members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps," as recorded by the official historian in describing the battle of Ypres, "rivalled in coolness, endurance and valor the men of the battalions who were their comrades."

Important duties also have fallen to those who are left behind, in organizing and manning the medical services of units preparing for active duty; in ministering to the medical necessities of the dependents of our soldiers, and not least, in giving their services for the restoration to health and usefulness of the sick and wounded who are returning from the front. The burden cheerfully undertaken by the medical profession of Canada has been a heavy one, and we believe has been creditably borne.

I feel assured indeed that I express the feeling of every member of this Association in saying that we regard it not only as a duty, but a privilege to do what we can toward the restoration to health and usefulness of our brave countrymen now returning, whose heroic deeds have won imperishable fame for themselves, and shed enduring lustre on our country. To them Canada may fittingly apply the words of the poet of the Yukon:

"I will not be won by weaklings, subtle, suave and mild,
But by men with the hearts of Vikings and the simple faith of
a child;
Desperate, strong and resistless, unthrottled by fear or defeat,
Them will I gild with my treasure, them will I glut with my
meat."