

War Notes.

THE SECRET OF VICTORY.

Sir William Robertson, Chief of Staff of the British Army, follows in the wake of Admiral Sir David Beatty, at the head of the British Navy, in these words:—"I fear that even yet too many of us are putting an undue amount of trust in 'chariots and horses.' I am old fashioned enough to think that this great war, like those of which we read in the Old Testament, is intended to teach us a necessary lesson, and if this be so it follows that we ought to examine ourselves and take the lesson to heart."

The well known words of Sir David Beatty are:—"When England can look out on the future with humbler eyes and a prayer on her lips, then we can begin to count the days toward the end."

It seems to have come to this, that the heads of the Army and Navy of Great Britain have to tell the religious leaders of the Empire how the latter could best assist them in winning the war.

Recent changes in the British Cabinet, and the suggestion for a small War Council of capable and aggressive men and the retirement of Mr. Asquith, reminds us of a book, "Ordeal by Battle," reviewed in these columns (ante page 129). The forecasts of the writer of that book and his thoughts on inaction, of the British Cabinet, referring especially to Mr. Asquith, are now fully justified. Mr. Oliver and others said the motto of the late Prime Minister was: "Wait and see." Chapter and verse were given him for the fact that, years before the war began, Germany was preparing to attack England. Nothing was done. Had the Government acted on the facts before them, they would have saved thousands of lives—the cream of the young men of the Empire.

Limitation of consumption by voluntary means having clearly failed, the Government have at last announced that they intend to take some steps forward towards regulating the sale and price of food by means of regulations under the Defence of the Realm Acts. These steps might well have been taken six months ago, and there is considerable ground for the general feeling which has been expressed that the measures which are to be taken might well be more drastic. It is denied that food