

BIOLOGY AND WAR

of barbarous reprisals and impossible humiliations, and in ill-considered readiness to rush into schemes which would mean that we were falling victims to one of the national diseases, namely militarism, which we are combating in our enemies. To quote from our Galton Lecture (*Eugenics Review*, April 1915): 'What sowings of dragon's teeth there must be in the terrible struggle of this war; is it weak to be afraid lest by and by in the crop that springs from them there may be something worse than armed men?' The past lives on in our present; the ape and the tiger die hard; there is always, as Tennyson said, a dread risk of reversion dragging evolution in the mud.

To sum up, man is fortunately not shut up to searching in nature for guidance, but if he does look carefully enough in that direction, he will find nature has another message besides, 'Each for himself, and elimination take the hindmost; contention is the vital force; and careers are open to talons.' There is another message—much harder to obey—of subordinating individual gratification to species welfare. And again, if man does insist on following, as in war, the mode of the struggle for existence in which rats excel, he must not delude himself with the hope that it will necessarily result in the survival of the fittest in any progressive sense. The most desirable types are apt to get sifted out, leaving the race impoverished.

IN CONCLUSION

The argument of this paper is that *from a biological point of view* war must be regarded with anxiety since it makes for the impoverishment of the race by sifting out a disproportionately large number of those whom we can least afford to lose, and that far from being in full accordance with nature's message to man it is a reversion to the crudest and most primitive form of the struggle for existence, and therefore to be regarded with peculiar fear. At the present time, when we are involved in a terrible war