

power, hygiene of unimagined efficiency, aeroplanes, submarines, poison gases—all these appeared to spring into being or evolve into perfection overnight. Into a static world change was born.

And these vast controlling forces, these rending destructive agents, these strange new implements of speed and death and terror are the products of the hitherto unregarded. The professors, the amiable, harmless scholars of tradition working hand-in-glove with the inventors (a notoriously unpractical crew), have hurled these their ghastly offspring into an unimaginative world, and shattered the precedents of centuries.

Obviously, people who can do this sort of thing must command our respect. We may not like them; we might even prefer to relegate them and their infernal inventions to eternal oblivion, but since they are here and all we hold dear may depend upon their labours, we must learn to accept and even to seek their services with as much good grace as we can summon.

Such is the mental attitude of not a few, and it springs from a very prevalent misunderstanding. Although it is of course perfectly obvious to the trained engineer or doctor that the war merely precipitated a number of inventions which were already on the verge of practical realization, or dragged into prominence hitherto unregarded discoveries decades or even a century old, to those who are unfamiliar with current scientific thought and the history of science (and these alas comprise a substantial majority of even our better educated members of society) this whole flock of inventions and discoveries appeared to spring into being as Athena sprang from the head of Zeus, full-armed without the preliminary gestation of centuries of painfully accumulated knowledge.

The present world-crisis is so stupendous in its magnitude and in the novelty of its manifestations that it may well seem folly to draw an

analogy with an episode of antiquity. Yet in so far as the part played by science is concerned, and in not a few other respects as well, the situation of to-day is remarkably paralleled by one which occurred no less than twenty-one hundred years ago.

It was during the second Punic war when the two great world-powers of their day, Rome and Carthage, were facing each other in a bitter struggle for the world domination of two opposing theories of society. Syracuse, under the rule of Hiero, had been a loyal ally of Rome and much depended upon her fidelity. The close proximity of Sicily rendered her a vital danger in enemy hands. It came about, however, that Hiero died and was succeeded by his son Hieronymus.

The outcome of the great struggle was at that time by no means certain, and it perhaps occurred to Hieronymus that his father had chosen the wrong or at least the unfortunate side in the conflict. At all events, he was supposed to have been guilty of intriguing with Carthage, and the citizens of Syracuse, outraged by this attempted treachery, arose in their wrath and very effectively terminated the rule of Hieronymus and the monarchical form of government as well, setting up a republic in its stead.

This energetic action was unfortunately misunderstood in Rome. Doubtless the stability of the new republic was viewed with doubt and the ultimate purpose of the revolution with suspicion. Whatever the reasons may have been, the Roman Senate dispatched a very peremptory ultimatum to Syracuse, demanding the immediate restoration of the monarchy.

The young republic was very jealous of its new-found liberty, as republics are apt to be, and the response to the ultimatum of Rome was unhesitating defiance.

During the Punic wars Rome had become a sea-power. In many bitter lessons they had learnt the art of the Phoenicians and the Carthaginians