

## PHARISAISM AND WAR

without recrimination that, as long as we care about morals at all, we are almost all Pharisees ; that you are a Pharisee, that I am a Pharisee, and that as the trouble is one which springs from fallen human nature, the patrons of the *Daily News* and the *Daily Mail*, of the *Spectator* and the *Nation*, of the *British Weekly* and the *Challenge*, are in this respect brothers under the skin.

In this paper there is time to deal with Pharisaism only in its religious form.

1. 'As long as we care about morals at all'—surely that will help us to begin the dissection of Pharisaism that we may find out what it is. For it is impossible without morality. The cannibal tribe cannot be Pharisaic, as long as its warriors eat for hunger or sport or the nourishment of their valour. They can become Pharisees only as they import some moral sanction into the process and decide that their neighbour is to be sent to Coventry because he does not eat their victim with the prescribed sauce, or that the enemy across the water has been guilty of some social iniquity which can only be expiated in the stew-pot. During the present war there is probably far less Pharisaism in Serbia than is to be found in Britain ; one must be somewhat moral to be a Pharisee.

The man of the world, therefore, bids us abolish the disease by getting rid of morality, which is as effective as to cure a victim of lumbago by sawing him in sunder. Further, the man of the world is never bold enough to perform so drastic an operation on his own morality, and thus after a little scrutiny the symptoms may generally be found in his case also. The cure for Pharisaism is not less morality but morality fuller and more progressive. As a matter of actual history Pharisaism has linked itself with and lived upon some of the noblest emotions of human history. The long robes and petty legalisms of our Lord's day went back but a few score years to Maccabean ancestors, who had girt up their garments to conquer Syria and had died by families at a time rather