

Reconstruction

We would point out that one of the most frequent hindrances to an effective ministry is the clergyman's remoteness from, and inexperience of, common human life as ordinary men have to live it. Many clergy appear to have lost some essential element of their manhood, and consequently neither understand nor are understood by other men. The laity have a right to expect of their clergy the knowledge and experience of their profession. Sometimes it seems to them that behind the use of professional formulae and a non-committal attitude, the clergy are endeavouring to hide their inability to deal with difficulties, instead of frankly acknowledging it. This is fatal to any real fellowship between clergy and laity.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL MISSION IN ENGLAND ON EVANGELISM.

The preoccupation of the war is not so great but that the minds of many are turning towards the time when peace shall bring many grave and pressing problems, problems which will demand strength and courage and wisdom to solve successfully. The effects of the war have been so great and far-reaching, the damage inflicted so serious, that the world will face the task of beginning afresh, of building, perhaps not in every case even on the old foundations, a new and better social fabric. In such a task the Christian Churches must take their share; such an opportunity has never before, perhaps in the whole history of the world, and certainly never since the fall of the Roman Empire, presented itself to the Church throughout all the world. How far she is alive to this fact may be a matter of surmise; that she has been warned very often and very directly is quite certain. The purpose of this BULLETIN is not, therefore, to warn the Church of what lies before her, but rather to sketch the problems which she will have to grapple with. That she should not do so would seem almost incredible, for too many men are alive to the necessity for action to make it probable that the Church will wholly miss her venture.