

## ARE WE WORTH FIGHTING FOR ?

slowly, and with varying success, have become common-places of German life. In dealing with problems of national insurance, the relief of poverty, unemployment, and the like, other nations have for a long time been borrowing from the experience of Germany. We are all well aware of the extraordinary enterprise of German industry. In many other directions evidence might be given to show how steadfastly, and with what utter disregard of personal and private interests, the leading minds of Germany have pursued the ideal of German greatness, and have imposed their notions upon the life of the nation.<sup>1</sup>

This does not mean that Germany has become an earthly paradise for its people. The very nature of its ideal involves a contempt for the individual which has had disastrous consequences in more than one way. Moreover, the process of social improvement is still very far from being completed, and the domination of a military caste has lessened many of the benefits that otherwise might have accrued from so careful an ordering of the social system. But when we have allowed for all this we still see the over-mastering desire to make Germany, in the interests of a great national purpose, as perfect, as healthy, as strong as possible in its inner life.

<sup>1</sup> All this makes a far more wonderful story than the present condensed statement can even suggest. It should be read in Price Collier's *Germany and the Germans*, or Charles Tower's *Germany of To-day*.