

## SPENDING IN WAR TIME

WE are in a dilemma, we spenders of money whose incomes furnish us with more than a bare livelihood. The use we make of our money has suddenly become a matter of national importance ; on it depend grave issues of industrial welfare, the continued employment of many workers, the continued stability of many trades, the solvency of many captians of industry. But when we face the question, How shall we best spend this or that pound ? we are met by insoluble difficulties. On the one hand, there is the persistent appeal of the trader, whose motto 'Business as usual', with its corollary that it is our duty to go on buying and so keep the flag flying, seems to express a common-sense patriotism which very strongly attracts us. On the other hand there is the equally insistent appeal of innumerable new claims, of new forms of distress at home and abroad crying aloud for our aid. Can we or should we turn a deaf ear to these ? Obviously not ; and yet, if we give free expression to our charitable impulses what will become of the shopkeepers and the army of workers behind them ? The rival claims clash ; that is the plain fact of the matter. We cannot subscribe to any single fund, however worthy it may be, without hurting our tailors and dressmakers and many other people who are, in a real sense, dependent upon us. Then what on earth are we to do ?

A closer analysis of the rival claims does not help us out of the dilemma. At first sight, I confess, it seems to open a way of escape. There is plainly something illusory about the tradesman's claim. His plea for business as usual will not hold water ; nothing can or