

It is not much, after all, that is required ; but, on the other hand, it is something quite definite, and something of which at present there is no sign. Mr. Brodrick's speech was a good speech of its kind ; like Lord Salisbury's, it rang with an unmistakable sound such as painted laths do not give forth ; better still, it was the speech of a young man, a man with more resolution than philosophy ; there was about it none of that ominous un-Ministerial quality, Resignation. But it was inadequate for two reasons. We feel the less difficulty in pressing them because they concern others more than Mr. Brodrick himself. In the first place, then, his speech came too late ; it helped to disperse the fog, but we are pleading for such a continuous and steady current of instruction as shall keep the outlook clear throughout. In the second place, Mr. Brodrick spoke for himself and for his own Department ; there is an impression about—true or untrue, it goes to his credit—that he is at times decidedly in advance of his colleagues, and has once at least done right without leave. In any case, his speech, and those of other Ministers who have given us their opinions on the war, have shown such a diversity of view that it is evidently on his own behalf, and not on that of the Cabinet in Council that each one has been speaking. But we are pleading for clear and continuous information as to the direction which the policy of the whole Government is taking, and the amount of ascertainable progress which it has made.

We have said that it is in our belief impossible to postpone much longer this change of attitude, this adaptation to a new environment, this more modern view of the relation between Ministers and a nation at war. We believe further that to the present Government such a change would bring—would long ago have brought—distinct advantages. To begin with, the damaging effect of their repeated miscalculations would have been discounted beforehand ; as it is, from the despatch of the irresistible Army Corps of fifty thousand men (infantry preferred) down to the return of the troops in September last, the public have been asked to trust blindly in the judgment of men whose estimates have invariably been miscalculated, and their