

talked of her aristocratic look, said that she must be one of the leaders of Cologne society and that all these German girls found the appearance of the Allies very natty and smart, and so on until I told him to dry up. A few days later L was ordered to make a raid on the railway telegraph exchange. I took X— with me. When we got into the operating room of the exchange, where there were about 100 people working, I spotted X's fair lady of the street car sitting at one of the machines, (possibly sending a wire to a few of her subordinates in Cologne society). When she saw us she started chattering away to the girls around her, as hard as she could. X— had not seen her at all. I got the tapes I wanted and then asked X— to go to the machine where this girl was sitting and take down the Morse that was coming through just then. The tape stopped coming through and then X— turned idly to look at the operator. He carried it off very well but his North Polar Hindenburg-like expression was rather spoilt by a sudden ruddy colour over his face. We did not hear so much about leaders of Cologne society after that incident.

It was very remarkable to see how many of the Germans in Cologne had command of the English language. It is no exaggeration to say that, in nearly every store, at least one of the employees could speak English and they lost no time in airing their knowledge. It was no rare occurrence to see little German children in the street cars studying their English grammar and one prominent book-seller told me that they were completely sold out of German-English dictionaries and Eng-

lish grammars, and that the majority of them had been bought by Germans. I rather doubt whether we would have adopted this attitude towards the language of our conquerors. And yet it is a sensible attitude. Had we paid more attention to the German language before the war, the Germans would have had fewer surprises for us. They would never have come so near to victory as they did at times in 1914 and 1918—far more nearly than most people expect. It is difficult to understand the attitude of those people who say that the German language should be "taboo" that its teaching should be abolished. Why? Because we have beaten them! Surely not. Surely, now more than at any other time, it is important for us to know the German language in order to watch her more effectively than we did before the war, in order to compete with her in the markets of the world, in order to get the results of her scientific investigation, to profit ourselves by the progress she is making in research in science and in the organization of industry. Surely we are not going to cut off our nose to spite our face; we are not going to allow Germany, through her knowledge of our language, to enjoy with us the results of our industry, while we ourselves get no benefits from the result Germany has achieved. Let us do what Germany did before the war with such great advantage to herself—take ideas from her and use them for ourselves. The language of over a hundred million living people cannot be made a dead language, nor, if there is any truth or meaning in the League of Nations, would we wish it.

