

nation, and so on *ad nauseam*. It is depressing to-day to read, or to remember, all the outpourings on this subject in the past of laissez-faireists, and of doctrinaires with a constitutional inability to look beyond the very immediate and often parochial question of the hour.

All this is changed now in Great Britain. The war found the nation unprepared and lacking in very many of the materials vitally necessary not only for carrying it on, but for the continuation of some of the important national industries. The revelation gave a shock to the nation and dispelled, it is hoped, forever, the beliefs and cherished illusions which made it indifferent to research as a factor in national progress and development. The Imperial Government at once set about to organize a movement for fostering research in pure and industrial science. The Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, appointed in 1915, was given a grant of £25,000, another of £40,000 in 1916, and this year it has been voted £1,038,000 which it will use to further research during the next five years.

Henceforth liberal assistance to research in Great Britain will not be lacking, and, though it was grievously delayed, it has not come too late to be of service. One cannot, however, but think sadly of what might have been, if the leaders of the nation had earlier taken occasion by the hand. Had they encouraged the sciences as its interests required, its industries would have attained such a position of superiority that those of Germany could not have developed to any degree that would have made them competitors, and, accordingly, Germany could not have become through them wealthy enough to enable her to finance a war such as she is now carrying on. To assist her scientific development during the past thirty years Great Britain should have given annually nearly half a million pounds, or, about fifteen millions in all, a very great sum indeed but a bagatelle to the £5,000,000,000 of debt which this war is imposing on the nation, to say nothing of the ghastly legacies it is now leaving. It was, indeed, a German dramatic poet, but of a former and saner generation, who makes one of his characters exclaim that "The gods themselves are helpless in the face of man's stupidity!"

It was not only in Great Britain that the old point of view prevailed. In all other parts of the Empire the laissez-faire doctrine was inculcated, and, in consequence, an apathy regarding research in pure science and its application to industry, like that which characterized Great Britain in the forty years before 1914, paralyzed all attempts to make the universities develop on new lines. In Canada this was particularly the case. I have heard it again and again maintained that our universities should follow the lead of Oxford