

MOTORS AND MANSLAUGHTER

LIKE many other new things we have seen, the motor is the luxury of to-day, the life of to-morrow. Up to the present moment we know it in itself, but not in its consequences. Into a national existence already complicated it is about to introduce an entirely fresh set of complications; and these, it is hardly necessary to add, we have made no serious effort to forecast or to regulate. It is not our way. In the Boer War, we have been recently told by the German Staff, "the broad-mindedness, foresight, and practical sense of the British race showed themselves in a high degree: the officers and officials were able to supervise with certainty, and to overcome successfully, all those difficulties which were due to the extensive theatre of war, so different in every respect from the conditions in England." Praise is always welcome, and seldom fails to bring conviction to the subject of it. But this eulogy, however pleasant to read, seems to include a camel too bulky for the eye of any English needle. It contains a glaring inconsistency. We did encounter many difficulties in South Africa; we did successfully overcome them all—in the long run; but that we or any of us showed "foresight" in a high degree is a statement quite at variance with the facts and with the rest of the sentence. It was confessedly lack of foresight which got us into all our troubles, both of policy and detail; we had given no thought beforehand to a set of circumstances "so different in every respect from the conditions in England";