

Signs of the Times

April, 1917



THE EMPTY PEACE PALACE THE HAGUE

HAVE YOU READ WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT

THE OTHER SIDE OF DEATH?

You will be well repaid for reading the excellent book of this name by Carlyle B. Haynes, an interesting writer who takes up the whole question of human immortality from the standpoint of explicit Scripture teaching.

128 pages of engrossing matter, well illustrated.

Paper covers Rs. 1-0-0

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY, LUCKNOW

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS THE REAL

BONE OF CONTENTION

IN THIS PRESENT WAR?

All should read the stirring lecture on this absorbing and vital topic by MR. ARTHUR G. DANIELLS.

Forty-eight pages of intensely interesting reading and good illustrations, tastefully bound in paper—Four annas each. Twelve copies for Rs. 2-8-0. Read it and pass a good thing along to your friends.

Order at once from the International Tract Society
17 Abbott Road, Lucknow

Editor - R. D. BRISBIN

Associate Editor - W. W. FLETCHER

CONTENTS

TEMPTING THE RUSSIAN BEAR	PAGE	75
THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE GOSPEL .. .. .	..	77
THE DREAM OF PEACE .. .. .	..	79
THE OUTLOOK .. .. .	..	84
HEALING THE HURT SLIGHTLY .. .. .	..	86
GETTING AND GIVING .. .. .	..	87
RELATION OF REMEDIES TO DIVINE HEALING .. .. .	..	88
THE ROBBER AND THE BIBLE .. .. .	..	91

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

"The Handwriting on the Wall"

THE reader of world events cannot fail to realize that he is living in the most stirring and momentous days of all earth's history. Into every day of our lives is compressed the measure of a year of a century or even fifty years ago.

The Revolution in Russia and its bearing on the ever increasing importance of the Balkan and Eastern Question, the ever changing battle lines, the preparation for war in America, China, and the South American Republics, the trend toward an international tribunal for the preservation of future peace, and the question as to who will be the moderator, the growing extravagance of the rich and the corresponding increase of poverty, the ever growing friction between capital and labour, the unsettling of home life and its attendant evils in all countries of the world, the alarming accidents of daily occurrence and upheavals of nature—what do they all mean? We shall answer these questions and many more in the coming issues of the SIGNS.

Some excellent numbers are in course of preparation for our readers, and the addition of new features from time to time is going to make the monthly visits of

this magazine one of the most welcome events in your home, or we are mistaken.

Here are a few hints as to what is in store:—"The Moderator of the Post-Bellum International Tribunal," "The Fate of the Impenitent," "Chapters from a Sealed Book," "The Hope of India," "The Next Emperor of Europe," and a host of other good things to read, and intensely interesting pages for the boys and girls.

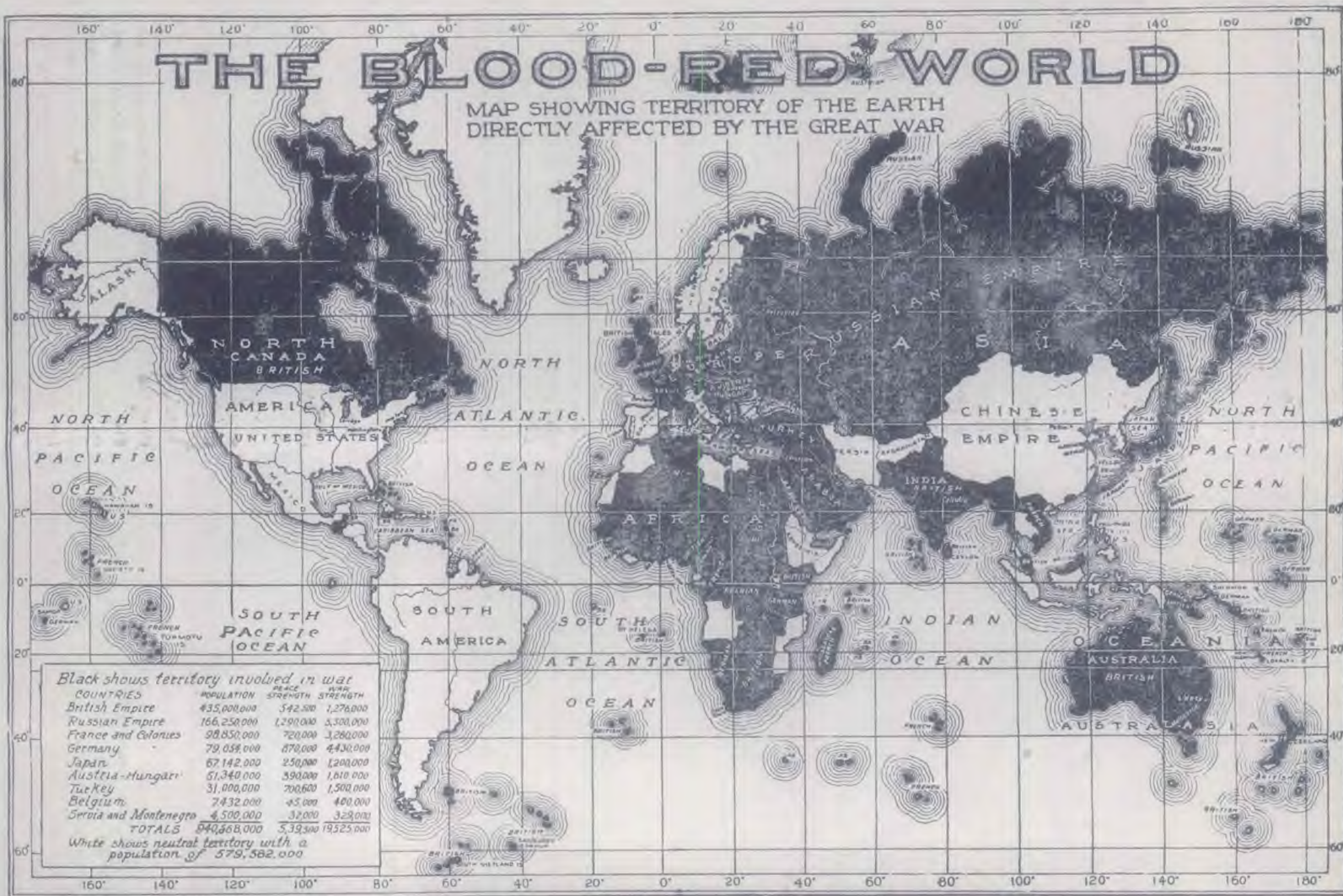
That the student of prophecy and history may see and discern the handwriting of God on the walls of national and social life, we offer in our succeeding numbers the best thoughts that can be obtained on every-day events in the light of the inspired word.

We invite your attention this month to the article entitled, "Tempting the Russian Bear," which is especially interesting in view of recent developments in Russia. "The Dream of Peace" and "The Relation of Medicine to Divine Healing" are also worth careful reading, and all the other articles for that matter.

We shall be glad to receive questions, short articles of worth, and suggestion from our subscribers at any time. Let us hear from YOU.

THE BLOOD-RED WORLD

MAP SHOWING TERRITORY OF THE EARTH
DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE GREAT WAR



Black shows territory involved in war

COUNTRIES	POPULATION	REACH STRENGTH	STRENGTH
British Empire	435,000,000	542,500	1,276,000
Russian Empire	166,250,000	1,200,000	3,300,000
France and Colonies	398,850,000	720,000	1,260,000
Germany	79,058,000	870,000	443,000
Japan	67,142,000	250,000	1,200,000
Austria-Hungary	51,340,000	390,000	1,810,000
Turkey	31,800,000	700,000	1,500,000
Belgium	7,432,000	45,000	400,000
Serbia and Montenegro	4,500,000	32,000	329,000
TOTALS	840,868,000	3,390,000	19,529,000

White shows neutral territory with a
population of 579,582,000

Tempting the Russian Bear

The Barter for Constantinople

BY E. L. CARDEY



FOR some time past, rumours have been abroad to the effect that Russia is thinking of making a separate peace, and considerable anxiety has been felt in Entente circles for fear some truth might be at the bottom of these reports. Indeed, enough has found its way through the Russian censorship to indicate that such a development was more than a suspicion. Apparently it was largely responsible for the recent shake-up in the Russian Duma.

In the *Literary Digest* of December 2, shape was given to these reports, in the following words: "Persistent rumours have been circulated from time to time in the German press that Russia was on the eve of negotiating a separate peace with the central powers. While these reports have been strenuously denied by more or less responsible papers on the side of the Entente, there has been no little disquiet in the allied camps, where many, acting on the old proverb that 'where there is smoke, there is fire,' believed that these rumours had some basis in fact. And now the dispatches from Petrograd say that last week's Duma 'crisis' was a successful fight by the Duma to keep the government from actually accepting a tempting offer from Germany.

An Attractive Bid

"Notwithstanding vigorous denials, there is reason to believe that some very attractive bid was made to Russia by the central powers, and that a separate peace might have been concluded but for the strenuous intervention of the Duma. Little relating to this interesting situation has managed to get by the Russian censor; but an interview given by Prof. Paul Milukoff, the leader of the Constitutional Democrats, to the representatives of the Associated Press, has been considered harmless. None the less, reading between the lines, a certain amount of light is thrown upon the conflict which arose between the Duma and the government."

The Tempting Offer

Of course, the question will naturally arise, "What tempting offer could Germany make to Russia?" Doubtless a number of things might be named; but what is the overtowering, all-embracing desire of Russia?

Russian ambition toward Constantinople and the Dardanelles is too well known to demand any extended argument for proof here. The so-called "will of Peter the Great" is a matter of history, with which most readers are familiar. He bequeathed Constantinople to Russia, and his successors have sought to execute that will many times since his death. England, however, has persistently stood in the way, for fear of the effect Russian presence at the Dardanelles might have on English possessions in the East. But in respect to Russia's great ambition to seize Constantinople, there has come a great change of sentiment in England. Shortly after the present war broke out, and before Turkey joined the conflict, the *London Spectator*, in its issue of October 17, 1914, had this to say:

"There is no party here who would dream of opposing Russia's claim to take and keep Constantinople should the Turks attack the allies. Turkey's only way of saving herself and keeping Constantinople would be to join the allies, and thereby put them under an obligation to give the Turkish empire another chance. But Turkey is too infatuated with Germany to do that. She will stick to Germany and be ruined, whatever happens; for if Germany wins, she will, whatever her promises, make Turkey her vassal.

"For ourselves, we look forward to seeing Russia at the Dardanelles. The obstacle of recent years has been not British but Balkan opposition. That, however, is not now a factor to be feared."

Very soon after Turkey entered the war, word came from England which indicated that the Entente had consented to give Constantinople to Russia. The *New York Evening Mail* of November 7, 1914, printed this dispatch: "At the present time, an agreement or bargain has undoubtedly been entered into between Great Britain and Russia which will leave Great Britain a free hand forever in all southern Asia, including the Persian Gulf, Oman, the Hadramaut, and

Yemen (southern Arabia), and the whole of southern China."

Storming Constantinople

Early in 1915, England made preparation to carry out this agreement by forcing the Dardanelles and handing Constantinople over to Russia. The attack by land and sea was terrific. The Turkish forts were poorly manned, and had inadequate ammunition. We learned afterwards that at one time but seven shells in the forts remained between the English fleet and its successful passage up the straits to Constantinople; but the fleet failed to return to the attack. This is significant, and let the reader bear this in mind for later consideration.

The cold facts are that the allies failed to meet their promises to Russia. With German success in the Balkans, Russian hopes and ambitions seemed farther off than ever before. *The central powers alone prepared to fulfill Russian desires in this, the greatest of our national and international questions. Is this the tempting offer they made to Russia? It is only a conjecture, but we dare believe this was just the offer made.*

But on December 2, 1916 Premier Trepoff announced to the Russian Duma the following: "For more than a thousand years, Russia has been reaching southward toward a free outlet on the open sea; this age long dream cherished in the hearts of the Russian people is now ready for realization."—*Boston Transcript*, December 4, 1916. Why this blowing of trumpets about Constantinople? The answer is obvious: The Russian people can be held in check only when the prospects

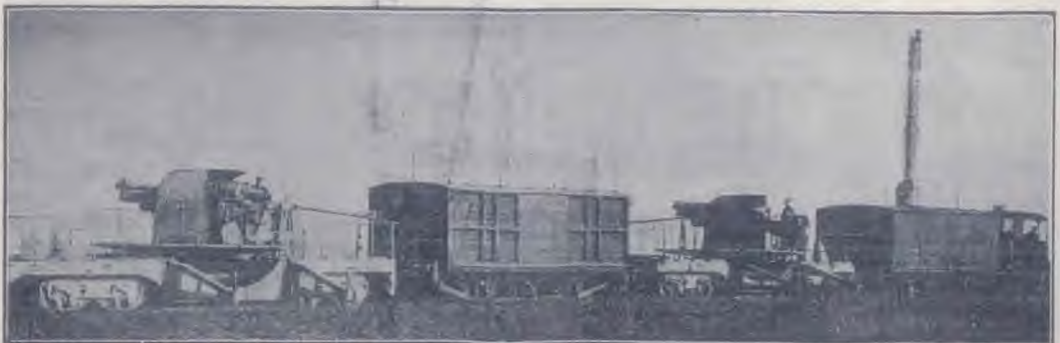
of obtaining Constantinople are held prominently before them.

It is certain then that the central powers have held out their last bait—Constantinople—to the Russian Bear. He has refused it. The Russian people have shown their faith once and for all in the promises of the Allies. Germany, who claimed to be the saviour of Turkey, has turned to be her Judas. No act of Germany's has so clearly shown her true character as this last. Her Chancellor's remarks about "scraps of paper" have indeed been equal to ten battles in the Allies' favour, as was said in the Reichstag, for no nation, neutral or belligerent, has any more faith in Germany's promises.

The next evidences, and the greatest of all, are the Bible prophecies. These prophecies seem to indicate that Russia will control the Dardanelles (Ezekiel 38), and that Turkey will at last come to his end, and none shall help him. (Daniel 11: 45.)

This will mark the beginning of the last events which hover around the close of probation, and which prepare the way for the battle of Armageddon. Significant are the words of Daniel 12: 1 in this connection: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the Book."

Surely we are living in interesting and perilous times. It behooves us, dear reader, to watch unto prayer, and get ready for the coming of the Master.



The Infallibility of the Gospel

BY W. R. FRENCH

INFALLIBILITY is the characteristic of the Christian religion which establishes confidence in its promises, invites investigation from non-adherents, satisfies its adherents with a peace of mind which no other characteristic could possibly produce, and supplies hope in life and comfort in death. How eagerly men seek for truth, and when found, with what satisfaction embraced. Truth is the claim made for every religion by its adherents. The Christian religion is no different from others in this respect, but the BASIS OF TRUTH, OR INFALLIBILITY, differs with various religions and even with various denominations of the same religion.

The Word of God, the Basis of the Gospel

The gospel of Jesus Christ has for its basis the eternal, unchangeable, and infallible word of God. The Apostle Peter says "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth forever But the Word of the Lord endureth forever, and this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you." I Peter 1: 23 25. Again Paul declares, "The Word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all)." Acts 10: 36. In his charge to Timothy, as well as to all ministers of the gospel, he said, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ . . . preach the word; . . . for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 4: 1 4. From these texts it is clearly seen to be the duty of the gospel minister to preach the word; and every gospel sermon should have for its basis "The Word of God. . . . which is by the gospel preached unto you."

Christ, the General Theme of the Word

Jesus, when upon earth, commanded his disciples to "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me." John 5: 39. Christ, the Messiah, is so eminently and manifestly a part of the word, that He is declared to be the "Word of God." John 1: 1-3, 14. He is the incarnation of the Word. To preach the Word, is to preach Jesus, as Philip in preaching to the eunuch, "Opened his mouth and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." Acts 8: 35. In the same manner also, Jesus

"Beginning at Moses and the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures, the things concerning Himself." Luke 24: 27. In his prayer to the Father, he prayed, "For I have given them the words which Thou gavest me; and they have received them; and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send me." John 17: 8. It is manifest from the above texts, that Christ is the basis of the Word, and that the Word of God which Jesus gave to his disciples was given from Moses and all the prophets. They, therefore, form a portion of the written Word of God and should be searched by Christians.



THE CENTRAL THEME

The Word of God, the Basis of Faith

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10: 17. This word, being the Word of God, is truth, as Jesus declared "Thy Word is truth." John 17: 17. "It is therefore infallible, and thus a strong basis faith." "It is impossible for God to lie." Heb. 5: 18. Abraham, the father of the faithful, knowing this, "Staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform." Rom. 4: 20, 21. The gospel, - being the Word of God, and not

of man, we trust its promises, knowing that God's Word shall not return unto Him void, but it shall accomplish his pleasure; knowing that He is able also to perform his promises; for "God is not a man that He should lie; neither the Son of man that he should repent; hath He said, and shall he not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Num. 23: 19.

The Scripture Inspired

Paul declares "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Tim. 3: 16. Inspiration means in this connection, "God breathed." Where did God breathe his Word? Peter answers, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation; for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. 1: 20, 21. The Spirit of Christ moved the prophets to write. Read 1 Pet. 1: 10, 11. God put his words in their mouths as says Jeremiah 1: 9.

Proof of Infallibility

Jesus said, "Now I tell you before it come, that when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He." John 13: 19. To foretell is to prophesy. To prophesy, is to manifest one's knowledge or lack of knowledge. The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible therefore establish its claim to veracity or infallibility, and inspire faith or confidence in future fulfilment. God says, "I am God, and there is

none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning. . . . I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass, I have purposed it, I will also do it." Isa. 46: 9-11. Again, "God is not a man that He should lie; neither the Son of man, that he should repent; hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Num. 23: 19. Being the Word of God, every word of it must be fulfilled, as Jesus said, "*All things must be fulfilled*," which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me." Luke 24: 44.

Jesus, being the Word, must therefore fulfil the prophecies and establish its claims to being the truth. This He began to do when He came as a sin bearer and will finish when He comes in fulfilment of prophecy, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The Bible to be Taken as it Reads

"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." 2 Tim. 2: 7. Fulfilled prophecy, though sometimes expressed in symbols, always meets a literal, actual fulfilment, as for example, prophecy declared that Jesus would be born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem. *Jesus bore witness to the truth in fact.* Prophecy declares that He will come again. Taking the precedent of the past, can we doubt that Jesus, Himself, will personally appear again upon earth? This will form the basis for a future study.



"HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST."

The Dream of Peace

Will It Be Realized?

THE beautiful Temple of Peace lies empty. Erected at a cost of over £500,000 to provide a home for the international tribunal which would arbitrate all differences between nations and prepare the way for everlasting peace and good-will, it stands to-day as the monument of man's weakness and folly. Its halls resound not with ambassadorial gossip. The council chamber for the kings of the earth is the home of silence. The attendants brush the dust from chairs which are never occupied, and the tables reflect back an unbroken image of the desolation.

Do any of us remember those wonderful visions of peace that were being flaunted in the eyes of the world in the decade preceding the war? Do any remember that in spite of it all the race for armaments went on until the final crash came? Do any remember that remarkable statement in the *Paris Matin* several years before the war?—

"We demand the immediate destruction, in the name of humanity, of the half completed Peace Palace in The Hague. When its construction was decided upon, the Anglo Boer war broke out, and plans were laid for the Russo-Japanese war. When the first stone was laid, the Kaiser made his first voyage to Tangier, which event was the beginning of the Morocco European complications. When the first floor was finished, Austria seized Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the second floor was completed, the Franco-German controversy arose. When the roof was put on, the Turkish-Italian war began. Only think, the painters, glaziers, decorators, have not yet begun their tasks! We have also heard rumours of statues symbolizing peace. Beware! Each time one is unveiled it will rain shrapnel somewhere. When the temple is completed, look out for a grand scrim-

mage." *The Temple was completed just a few months before the war cloud burst.*

Said the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church of Thessalonica (now Salonika);—"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them; . . . and they shall not escape." Has it proved true or not?

But "Scraps of Paper"

But setting aside this monumental failure for the cause of peace and all it represents in



BY THE WIDOW'S HEARTHSTONE. "WHERE WILL WE BE TOMORROW NIGHT?"

money and effort and time, what about the nearly two hundred treaties signed by almost every nation of the world, large and small between Oct. 14, 1903, the date of the Anglo-French arbitration agreement, down to the outbreak of the war? Where are those broken pledges? Where are the courts of arbitration? Those treaties and the sacred oath of the nation have been but "scraps of paper" in the eyes of a country which was the leader of the world in science and research.

H. N. Brailsford, writing in the *London Daily News* several months before the outbreak of hostilities, said:

"If war there is to be, of this we may be sure, that no one inside the inferno of struggling races will think twice of The Hague and its humane regulations. The armies that advance and retreat will march amid bands of reckless guerrillas. The villages will be smoking in their path, and women and children will choose between the passions of the combatants on the plains and the chaste cruelty of the mountain snows." Who was right, he or the pacifists? Read the report of ex-ambassador Bryce, or the horrors of the Armenian massacres.

The Perishing Millions

Peace, *Peace*, PEACE. From every country we hear the cry; and mingled with it as the gathering of a bloody tempest comes, the shriek of the starving, Bread, *Bread*, BREAD. While about twenty million men are under arms on the various fronts, waiting to be devoured by the cannon and machine gun, an even greater number in the war-stricken countries are perishing by every form of want and disaster.

In Belgium, 3,000,000 people are living on one meal a day supplied by the Relief Committees.

In Northern France, 2,100,000 people, mostly women and children are going bare-foot, and lack sufficient food.

In Serbia, 5,000,000 people are deprived of their living and of any chance to make it.

In Poland, 11,000,000 people, largely women and children are suffering from exposure, hunger, and disease.

Of the Armenians, 1,175,000 have no means of helping themselves.

In Albania, Syria, and Palestine the specter of starvation stalks abroad and is slaying its thousands.

Verily, the cheapest thing in the world today is human life. That the old world needs peace no one can dispute, if she ever needed it in all her chequered history; but,—will she ever get it?

The Elusive Dove of Peace

PEACE. The inhabited earth stops to catch the whisper. PEACE, and the ears of monarchs, generals, statesmen, wives, mothers and homeless orphans are a tingle, and the dying soldier bids death stay its hand if perchance he may know that he has not bled and suffered in vain.

What a flood of emotions and thoughts surge before the mind. Yes, we have heard

the word in connection with peace invitations, peace notes, terms, reparation, restoration, indemnity, ante bellum boundaries, evacuation, reorganization, liberation, expulsion, international peace tribunals,—but oh, where can it be found?

The dove of peace hovered for a moment above the dust of the battle, but again she is hid to view behind the clouds of smoke from the belching guns of the armies. When will she return?

Say the Allies, "United in the pursuits of this supreme object, (terms of peace) the Allies are determined, individually and collectively, to act with all their power and to



consent to all sacrifices to bring to a victorious close the conflict upon which they are convinced not only their own safety and prosperity depend, but also the future of civilization itself."

And the German replies, "Every German in the world will fight for ten years on bread and water rather than submit to the 'preposterous' terms submitted in the note of the Allies to the President."

The *New York Journal of Commerce* is led to exclaim:—"All make it clear that there is little chance at this time, or for an indefinite time to come, of bringing about peace between the powers that are shaking Europe with the most terrific war in history." And as the *Literary Digest* remarks in quot-

ing the foregoing, "The New York daily but speaks the mind of most of its contemporaries and echoes the judgment of the experienced press correspondents in Washington and London."

How Long Will the War Last?

"Yes, we know it is awful," say the members of the various peace commissions, "but, remember, this to be the LAST war." We have heard the expression before. It does look as though it would be, because there will be no one left to fight when it is finished, but the women and children.

"Well, the war will soon be over," say the optimists, and we all wish they were right. We cannot but think of the words of the lamented Lord Kitchener, however, in this connection:—"I do not know when the war will end, but I know we shall *begin* to fight in 1916." And Lord Curzon is reported in a London dispatch as saying, "It seems likely that well into another year, perhaps longer, must we continue this dreadful tragedy that is turning the world into hell and wrecking the brightest promise of nations. Our spirit cannot falter, since an inconclusive war or a patched up peace means for us not only humiliation, but destruction."

Mr. Arthur Henderson of the British War Council seconds the foregoing with,— "During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before. We are not only fighting against material forces which are highly organized, but we are engaged in a great spiritual conflict upon the result of which

depend all our ideals. . . . I can not tell you how many months and what sacrifices stand between us and victory."

Will a Treaty Bring Peace

But beyond the predictions of the termination of the present struggle, come voices of what the future may mean. We know, when we stop to think of it, that the Central Powers even if forced on their knees to accept the Allies terms, will not submit in spirit. As France never forgot the stinging defeat of 1870, so Germany will never forget as long as there is a German, any defeat which may come to humble her pride. Did England give in to Napoleon? Although it took her twenty years to conquer the "disturber of the peace of Europe" did she acknowledge defeat? Would she at the hands of the German even were one billeted in every home of the British Isles? We leave it to be answered by any Britisher? Will Germany then accept peace at the point of the sword?

Says Dr. George Brandes, the eminent Danish critic, "The trouble with a peace treaty is that it does not at all guarantee peace." In support of this contention he cites in the January issue of *Vanity Fair* (New York) the calculation of Victor Cherbuliez, showing that *from the year 1560 B. C. to 1860 A. D. the world achieved eight thousand treaties each of which lasted on an average little longer than two years.* If national security were to be assured by treaty or by war, the war of 1870-71 would have permanently settled the question of Alsace-Lorraine,



MAKING ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

but security is only obtained "when both parties consider the settlement *Just*." And he goes on to say that "the methods which the European nations have been using of late will not bring them very much nearer to their goal."

The Next War!

And what is more surprising still, as quoted in the *Literary Digest* of January 13 of this year:—

"No lasting peace appears, whatever may be the official views of the Government, to enter into the calculations of some of the captains of industry in Germany, at least if the view of Dr. Walter Rathenau is typical. At the head of one of the great electrical industries in the world, the Allgemeine Electricitäts Gesellschaft, popularly known as the "A. E. G.," Dr. Rathenau occupies high rank among the commercial magnates of the Fatherland, while his genius for organization is such that, since the war began, the task of mobilizing industry has been committed to his charge by the Government. Under these circumstances, Dr. Rathenau's utterances acquire special significance, and it is somewhat of a shock to find an article from his pen in the Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger*, in which he discusses the need of industrial preparation for a future war which he apparently regards as inevitable." And then follows a long outline of how the industries must be organized before such an event, and of the diplomacy which must be employed to influence neutrals on their side.

The *Digest* goes on to say, "These frank utterances from one of the leading capitalists of Germany have produced in France a marked reaction against peace, and we find that brilliant French author and academician Mr. Rene Bazin, using Dr. Rathenau's article as a text for an impassioned appeal to the United States not to insist too strongly on peace-proposals at the present time. "Here," says he, "in a nutshell. . . is the reason why the war would be continued for ten years if necessary by France, England, and their allies. It is the reason why nothing short of the 'knockout' will serve. The war cloud that hung over Europe for thirty years prior to August, 1914, must be dispersed finally and forever."

Revolution and Plots

And as we write, comes the news of the abdication of the Czar of Russia, a second French Revolution if you please without the

Reign of Terror": of Germans crossing the borders into Mexico to stir up strife there; of plots in Columbia and Nicaragua to turn them against the United States and attack the Panama canal; of intrigues in Japan to get her imbroiled in the terrible volcano of war.

"Behold, the valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly," wrote the prophet Jeremiah of the last days. And Ezekiel in speaking of "the day of the wrath of the Lord" says, "Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour. The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their desert will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the Lord." Ezekiel 7: 25-27.

My friend, the signs foretelling the coming of the "Prince of Peace," have nearly all been fulfilled. Peace has departed from this earth, and will not return until "He come whose right it is to rule."

We believe old England to be fighting for the chivalry of nations, but will she win against the influences of evil which have been let loose in the world even though she wins by her arms? England herself is going down under the weight of the broken homes and the broken hearts. Read the paragraph on page 86.

The Apostle Paul declares, "But wicked men shall wax worse and worse," and nothing in the wide world can make that read "better and better." Everywhere you look there is misery and suffering and wrong, murder and vice and crime of every description, and only the God in heaven knows how much wickedness in the church and the cloister. A recent investigation carried out among men and women high in social life and church affairs in one of the cities of the United States revealed conditions equaling the "red light" district of the veriest slum. And we have no reason to believe but what the same is true of every large community in the world.

What Is the Cause?

In the words of one who for more than threescore years was the closest student of prophecy and Holy Writ and deep experience in the things of God:—

"The doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the flood gates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness and dissipation and corruption are sweeping up like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, strife, betrayal of sacred trust, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin.

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling against one another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theatres horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short, he has set all his agents to work, that men may be deceived, deuded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut. The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow that no human balm can heal. Sentinel angels are now restraining the four winds, that they shall not blow till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of strife such as no pen can picture.

A Terrible Time of Trouble

"The time of trouble, such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and shall need an experience which many are too indolent to obtain. *It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality, but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation can not reach the magnitude of the ordeal.* In that trial every man must stand for himself before God. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the land, as I live, saith the Lord God they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness."

Are We Prepared

Friend, have you made your peace with God? Are your sins forgiven? Can you meet the holy Judge of the world before his judgment bar? There is still opportunity if you come now. The Saviour of the world still pleads with outstretched arms, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls for my yoke is easy, and; my burden is light." (Matt. 11: 28-30.) Here is the only peace, dear reader, for you or for me. "Great peace have they that love Thy law and nothing shall offend them."

Are you tired of the world? Are you fearful of the future? Take refuge in the promises of God's Word which have been the hope and the comfort of the martyr and the-saint. The door of mercy is closing. The Master is soon coming. Will you not come now? He *will* accept you if you only accept Him.

R. B.

"Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."—Eccl. 12: 13,14.

The OUTLOOK



ARTILLERY IN ACTION

Swords and Ploughshares

WE are informed by Holy Writ that in the last days and just before the last great battle, men will beat their ploughshares into swords and their pruning-hooks into spears. We have reached that day; and we see now that those implements named are merely typical of all the implements of industry. Note the following:—

“Day after day, long lines of men and women carrying bundles, packages, and pieces of metal ware of all descriptions, stand in the government offices of Poland, awaiting their turn. They are surrendering their domestic utensils—bathroom fixtures, kitchen ware, pots, pans, kettles, door-knobs, lamp-hangers, anything having the slightest bit of metal about it. The Austro-Hungarian Government has posted notices throughout war-ridden Poland, requisitioning all household metals for military purposes. Nothing escapes, and no one is exempt.”

Sentimental Extravagance Amid Distress

A St. Louis, U. S. A. woman recently held an elaborate funeral at the death of her pet canary. The body was embalmed, and placed in a silk-lined oak casket. It was buried in the family plot in the cemetery,

with appropriate services and floral offerings.

Press reports tell of another interesting circumstance. A wealthy Western woman whose death occurred lately, willed a large sum of money for the care of her pet cat. While we bear no ill will toward the cat, inasmuch as it was not to blame, yet we were cheered to learn that the death of the cat occurred soon after that of the mistress, and we hope that the money will be put to a nobler use.

From Japan comes the report that a munition maker recently came to wealth through supplying arms to Russia, paid Rs. 15,000 for a doll for his daughter.

This is no time for sentimental extravagances, while hundreds of thousands are perishing for want of bread. Millions are in dire distress as the result of the desolating war, and the survivors must be relieved and saved. The pitiful plight of the exiled Armenians and Syrians is too well known to warrant a detailed description here.

God will say to these men and women before long, “Go to now, ye rich men. . . . Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. . . . Ye have lived in

pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter." James 5: 15.

An Offering to the Gods

(ASSOCIATED PRESS.)

KRISHNAGAR, MAR. 13, 1917.

The Sessions Judge yesterday disposed of the case in which three women and their *Guru* (religious preceptor) were charged with killing two little boys. The case for the prosecution was that the mother of the two children lost her husband and came recently to live with her mother and sister in a village near Chuadanga. The *Guru* came one day and asked the mother to kill the boys, to cook their flesh, and to present it to the gods. He brought the women completely under his control and the mother agreed. The *Guru* told them that after the cooked meat had been offered to the gods they would find the children alive. In this court the mother retracted what she had stated before the lower court. She denied the complicity of the *Guru* and the other two women in the crime and took the responsibility on herself. The jury gave a unanimous verdict of guilty against the *Guru* and the mother, under section 502, I. P. C. ("murder"). The Judge accepted the verdict and sentenced them to transportation for life. The other two accused (mother and sister of the convicted woman) were acquitted.—*Statesman*.

Is this one of the benefits of idol worship which we hear defended even by the educated Hindu?

"And they served their idols; which were a snare unto them. . . . Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols. . . . And the land was polluted with blood." Psa. 106: 36-38.

Revival of Spiritualism

From England comes the information that spiritualism is reviving among those who have lost relatives in the war. Sir Oliver Lodge has caused great excitement by writing a book in which so-called messages are given through mediums from his son who was killed at the front in September, 1915. It has been well known for years that the ex-Tsar of Russia never made any important move without the advice of a medium or clarivoy-

ant. They evidently led him to destruction, however, and not to victory and a firmer throne. And in the *Statesman* (Calcutta) of March 18th we read of the situation in Russia preceding the Revolution:—"M. Protopopoff, who is a wealthy manufacturer as well as a courtier with a reputation for debonair duplicity, was absent from Saturday's Food Conference convened by M. Rodzianko, and it was generally believed that he was engaged in *spiritualistic seances at the Tsarskoe Selo palace*. With the Premier a nonentity, it is not surprising that the food situation produced dismay."

The "dark powers" indeed have been the guiding hand in old Russia, for the Word of God declares all pretended communication with the dead to be the work of "spirits of devils," (Num. 25: 1-3); and all dealing with mediums was forbidden by God under penalty of death. (Lev. 19: 31; 20: 27).

"When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter; should not a people seek unto their God? . . . To the law and to the testimony. If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8: 19, 20.

And the Revelator declares it is the spirits of devils which will gather the world for the last great battle of Armageddon just before the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; . . . they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16: 13, 14.

In a future issue we shall deal with this wonder-working deception which is to engulf the whole world in its power before the end of time.

The Benefits (?) of War

Some would have us believe that war will make the world and society better. We have not heard many army officers or statesmen propound the theory. Here are some paragraphs from the daily press showing a few direct results of the war on society:—

"Sir H. Craik called the attention of the House to the evils caused in the army by the *increased incentives to vice in London, particularly at the rear of the House of Commons*. He also commented upon the smallness of the penalties inflicted on the keepers of disorderly houses.

"General Smith-Dorrien said the men arriving in London at night time were confronted with appalling dangers, and if they were not taken care of the numbers lost to the army might become so great as to seriously interfere with the progress of the war."

So much for the men. Here is a view of the mother's of the next generation:—

"Smoking among women has greatly increased as a result of the abandonment of many of the restraints to which women consented to be subjected in the days before the war. In those days cigarette smoking by women was indulged in only by members of the smart set, the art set, and the members of the theatrical profession, and as a rule they were not ready to defy convention to the extent of smoking in public. But it is now a common sight to see women in London restaurants smoking cigarettes after a meal, without the company of a male escort to help them to brazen out their defiance of conventionality. Women carry cigarette cases and offer one another a smoke. Some women have been seen smoking on the top of buses. It is even whispered that members of the fair sex have resorted to the solace of a pipe after a strenuous day at the office."

"One of the unexpected results of the rapid emancipation of women in Great Britain,

due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of women are filling the places of male workers who have been called to the colours, is that the women are acquiring some of the bad habits of the sterner sex."

"According to the Baptist Women's League, women munition workers have acquired the habit of using very bad language. And they use it with the same freedom and frequency as the male workers.

"Bad language is now quite common in English drawing rooms."

And here is the effect on the savage:—

"There is something ironical in the fact that the European overlords of East and Central Africa have in the last two years rekindled the flames of combat among the natives, and there is no man living who possesses a knowledge of the native mind sufficient to justify him in making any prediction as to what the effects of all this turmoil and resurrected barbarism may be. This much is, however, certain: the white man cannot teach the blacks of Africa how to kill his brother white man without breaking down many of the ethical principles upon which European rule in Africa is based."

Africa is not the only continent where such consequences are to be feared.

What does all this mean to the Christian?

Healing the Hurt Slightly

BY W. E. VIDETO

THE prophet Jeremiah brings against certain religious teachers the charge of healing "the hurt of my people slightly, saying, peace, peace; when there is no peace." Jer. 6: 14.

In the sight of God sin is a disease of the deadliest kind. Isaiah says of the sinner, "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores." "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." Isa. 1: 5, 6. If we saw a man thus afflicted physically we should say he needed thorough treatment.

We should call any physician a quack who would heal the surface of a deep ulcer, leaving the poison within to spread disease. We should not think better of him if he knowingly deceived his patient by telling him that everything was all right.

Why have religious teachers so blundered in treating the disease of the soul? There is

only one answer: they have laid aside the only instrument heaven has given for diagnosing sin, the disease of the soul.

In detecting disease the physician uses various instruments,—the thermometer to detect fever, the stethoscope to locate congestion, the compound microscope to reveal the germ. Paul says, "I had not known (detected) sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." It is not hard to decide what law Paul used to detect sin. It was the law which said, "Thou shalt not covet," even the ten commandments.

William Tyndale, one of the great reformers of England, said of his preaching, "I first apply the sharp-biting medicine, the law, to cauterize the wound, then I put in some of the soothing gospel salve to heal." No danger of healing "the hurt slightly" when this is done. When the life is brought into harmony with this law, sin is completely

destroyed, for sin is the transgression of the law.

Here, also, is the only basis of real peace, for Isaiah says, "Oh, that thou hadst hearkened unto my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isa. 48: 18.

After saying that "they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, peace, peace; when there is no peace", (Jer. 6: 14) the Lord tells them to "ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Verse 16.

But this "good way" in which the Lord invited them to walk, wherein they were to find real healing, is the law of God, for verse nineteen, speaking of their refusal to walk in the "good way," says, "They have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

The Levitical law gave an impressive lesson on the same point. "But the soul that eateth of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, that pertain unto the Lord, having

his uncleanness upon him, even that soul shall be cut off from his people." Lev. 7: 20. When the Israelites came up to the feasts they were required to bring first the sin offering to get rid of sin; next the burnt offering, which denoted consecration; then they were free to offer the peace offering and rejoice before the Lord; but if they sought to offer the peace offering first, before their sins were confessed and put away, they were to be cut off.

True peace does not abide with sin, but there is a counterfeit which is really no peace, which the people are urged to accept instead of the genuine. The evangelist who tells his congregation that they can gain salvation in some way which leaves the law of God out of account is not working in harmony with the Spirit of God, which subjects us to deep and thorough searching, bringing up all our past sins and waiting until we renounce them all before speaking peace to our hearts. But such peace he speaks! deep, genuine peace, bearing all before it like the steady onward flow of a mighty river.

Getting and Giving

WE need constantly to remind ourselves that God is continually pouring down upon us innumerable gifts and blessings which we have not asked for. They are essential to our existence, our well being, our happiness; and because they are bestowed so freely, we hardly give them a thought—of some perhaps we are not conscious. But there are other gifts for which we must ask—His rich and precious treasures which we must seek in order to find, which we must ong for if we would obtain.

God gives to us so freely because He is Love; and because He is Love, He wants our love. For this reason He causes needs and emergencies to arise which bring us to our wit's end, and we are compelled to cry out to Him to help us. The cry at first may be only that of a foolish selfish child, wanting something that is useless or harmful; but the cry brings awakening, a looking up to a higher power that can aid us, and gradually as the wants become more frequent and the desires more deep, the sense of our relationship to our Father and of his goodness to us become stronger. We learn to know Him as our faithful God whose love and care are

unfailing. Then comes the life of trust in God—"casting all your care upon Him for He careth." "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

We get, get, get, all the time. There is not a moment in our lives when we are not getting. Are we afraid to give? Are we afraid to obey Christ's command, "Freely ye have received, freely give"? Are we afraid God's stores will be exhausted and that if we pass on what we receive our supplies will cease? No, no! That cannot be. Look around and "provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens which faileth not." Give love, give kindness, give sympathy, give brightness. Put sunshine into other lives. Don't be afraid of giving. A clogged channel means disease, sickness, death. Let the streams of heavenly love wash away all envy and unkindness, all selfishness and sloth, and let us be vigorous and full of joy in the service of the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.—A. C. R.

Health and Temperance

The Relation of Remedies to Divine Healing

BY THE LATE DAVID PAULSON, M. D.

(The writer of this article believed in prayer as a means of healing disease, and the record left behind him is a monument to the faith of the man. For many years he worked as a medical missionary in Chicago, U. S. A., and its environs, helping the poor, lifting up the outcast from the slough of despair, and teaching the rich and poor alike the Way of life. The power accompanying his words and life were well evidenced by his large circle of friends among the medical fraternity of Chicago; and on his last journey, it was the private train of the superintendent of one of the largest railroads leading into the metropolis of the West which carried Dr. Paulson to a health retreat of the South, if perchance he might regain the strength and energy which he had so lavishly expended for the benefit of others. We earnestly commend these few thoughts of his to the consideration of our readers.—Ed.)

GODS attitude toward this question is stated in 3 John 2, R. V.: "I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health."

I know some, especially those who are sick, will say, "I cannot understand it." They should remember that the Bible cannot be studied as any other book. Miners do not go down in a mine and dig up silver in large chunks; they discover a vein of ore and then keep following that vein. So the way to get harmony out of Bible study is to trace a certain vein of truth all through it. That is the great secret of making Bible study interesting. It is hard work, but it is worth while.

If God's thought for His children is health, then what about all this sickness and misery? God is not to blame for it, although He often succeeds in working great good out of it. "He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." Lam. 3: 33. On the contrary, He not only forgives iniquities, but heals diseases." Ps. 103: 3.

I can set a broken leg, but God has to unite it. I can create favourable conditions for the cure of gastric ulcer, but God must heal the ulcer. I can wash and apply certain remedies to wounds, but God has to heal them. God is not only the world's great healer, but also the great maintainer of health. We can cooperate with Him, remain inert, or work squarely against Him.

Different Remedial Measures

God recognizes different methods of cooperation in the sick-room. When Hezekiah was on his death bed, he prayed earnestly to the Lord, and Isaiah prescribed a fig poultice. Isa. 38: 21. In that instance both prayer and external remedies were used.

There is another class of invalids who need something more than prayers and poultices. They will never recover until they begin to do something for somebody else, instead of trying to have others do everything for them. Some people have the invalid habit, just as others have the morphine habit; and they will never feel well until they become interested in others who are worse off than they themselves are; until they begin to deal their bread to the hungry, to bring the outcast poor to their own houses, and when they see the naked, cover him.

I knew a good woman who lost her only child. She had the child's little stockings away in the bureau drawer, and every day or two she cultivated neurasthenia by taking those little stockings out, looking at them, and then having a good cry. One day she saw a little child on the street with no stockings and scarcely any shoes. Then God told her to put those stockings on the poor child's feet. She obeyed, and a great peace came into her heart. There are many of our sacred relics that could be better turned to some equally good use.

One day Napoleon went into a church that contained twelve silver statues of the apostles. Napoleon observed them and asked, "What are those things?" He was told, "Why, those are the twelve apostles." He said, "Well, take them down, send them to the mint, run them into money, and let them go around doing good as their Master did."

There was a woman who used to go out every day to her husband's grave to weep. She was rapidly falling into a decline. But her sister died and left a four-year-old child to her care, and then she had no time to go out to weep on any one's grave. In three

months' time she was perfectly well. That child saved the woman's life.

The instruction in Isaiah 58 does not set broken legs; neither will it cure headaches that are caused by eyestrain. It will not remove gastric ulcer that is due to vicious eating. It is Christian psychotherapy mingled with practical good sense that thousands of sick people need, and they will never be permanently well until they discover that fact. Then, and not till then, will their health "spring forth speedily." Isa. 58: 8.

Salve and Hydrotherapy

One day Christ met a blind man. In that particular instance He did not heal him by a word or by a touch. He made a clay ointment, and then commanded the man to go and bathe in a certain pool, and following this second treatment, his sight was restored. John 9: 6, 7.

Christ could certainly have healed him without the ointment or the bath, but He used these remedies so that no faint-hearted person could ever have any good reason for believing that God was opposed to the use of suitable, simple remedial measures.

Internal Remedies

In 1 Tim. 5: 23 we have some wonderfully interesting instruction. Paul, the greatest evangelist in the history of the Christian church, advised Timothy, the young missionary, "Drink no longer water only, but use a little wine for the sake of thy stomach, and thy frequent maladies."—*Conybeare and Howson's Version*.

Paul had been up in the third heaven, and had received more divine instruction than perhaps any man since Christ's day, and yet he did not suggest special prayers for Timothy's spells of indigestion. Instead he advised fruit juice, thus showing that there are certain cases that need regulation of diet rather than any spiritual or physical measures.

The Greatest Remedy of All

We are still working the same vein of truth; each case is not a contradiction of the others. It is the same ore; it just glistens with a little different colour; and now the end of our search is in sight, and last, but not least, we dig out this beautiful and inspiring truth: "Is any among you suffering? let him pray. Is any cheerful? let him sing praises." James 5: 13. R. V. Some people prefer to complain when they suffer, rather than to

pray. Others, when they are feeling good, would rather indulge in foolishness than praise to God.

Furthermore, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." In the old time when any one was set aside for a holy work, he was anointed with oil. When the sick man is willing to pay the price of such a dedication of his life, it is appropriate to have him anointed with oil; otherwise it is a mockery.

"The prayer of faith"—not the prayer of presumption. There is a vast difference between the two: the prayer of faith is in harmony with all God's known requirements;



"THE WORLD'S HEALER"

the prayer of presumption pays no attention to His requirements.

I have been called to unite with others in prayer for the sick, and when I wanted to know whether the patient was ready to give up tobacco, dispense with the juicy beefsteaks that had helped to create the disorder, the tea and coffee that had wrecked the nerves; whether he was willing to have his stuffy bed-room ventilated, he became impatient. But the Bible says, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer [not only is not answered, but what is worse] shall be *abomination*." Prov. 28: 9.

So reform always goes hand in hand with the prayer of faith. What then? "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." The

most important thing is to get saved. I know many healthy people who are not saved, and I am glad to say that I also know a goodly number of sick people who are thoroughly saved. The most important thing that can happen to a sick man in answer to prayer is to have his soul saved; then, if necessary, he can get along with a sick body.

Infirmities Sometimes a Greater Blessing Than Health

But that is not all: "The Lord shall raise him up." That may be instantly, or it may be gradually, or it may not be until over in the next world. I hear some one ask, "Do you mean to say that there are some cases—even after such prayer, if we have faith enough—whom God is not pleased to restore instantly?"—Precisely so. Paul had a serious trouble. He said it was a veritable messenger of Satan to buffet him. Did you ever have a wretched trouble which always came upon you when you wanted to do something—a miserable sick-headache, for instance? Paul had something even worse than that.

In our English translation it is called a thorn in the flesh, but the original thought suggests being impaled. That is the way criminals were sometimes killed. A stake was driven through them and into the earth, and they were left to die by degrees. Think of Paul doing his wonderful evangelistic work with such a misery! It so burdened him that he specially asked the Lord three

times for its removal so he would not be handicapped in this wretched way. Did God remove it?—By no means. He permitted it to remain to prevent Paul's being spoiled by self-exaltation as so many wonderful preachers in our day have been spoiled. He merely comforted him by saying, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness ["infirmity," Young's translation]." 2 Cor. 12:9. When Paul realized the mission of his infirmity, he said, as we may say, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

In view of this, we ought always to pray, "Not my will, but Thine, be done." We need not hesitate to avail ourselves of nature's remedies in connection with our earnest prayers; but after we have done all that we can, if the Lord does not deliver us from our infirmities we ought even cheerfully to say, "Most gladly will I glory in my infirmity."

I believe if we cooperate intelligently with God in the restoration of health, making use of such opportunities as are within our reach, discarding such things as the Lord has shown us are wrong, that God will give us all the health that He sees in His infinite wisdom we shall make good use of in this life; and He will bless to our good and to the good of His work whatever infirmities He permits us to retain, just as He did in Paul's case; in other words, He will make them work together for our good.



"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME."

Home and Young Folk

The Robber and The Bible

A True Story

MANY years ago there was a forester, named Grimez, who lived in a lonely place in the thick woods of the Silesian Mountains. His family consisted of his wife, his mother, and his little daughter about seven years of age. His wife and mother were good Christian women, but he himself was not a Christian. He did not even believe the Bible, and often used to ridicule his wife for her prayers, and what he called her "foolish trust in God."

On a dark and stormy evening in autumn wind whistled mournfully through the trees of the forest. The two women and the little child sat around the fire in their house. The forester had not yet come from the neighbouring town to which he had gone in the morning. The family were beginning to feel very anxious about him. They had good cause to feel so. It seemed that a band of robbers had been infesting that part of the forest of late, and had made it very unsafe. This forester was an officer of the king and his duty was to take care of the forest. After long efforts he had succeeded in capturing all this band of robbers except their leader, who was a very strong, cunning, and wicked man, and had sworn to have revenge on the forester and his family for breaking up his band. The women of that lonely family knew this. No wonder they felt anxious as they sat around the fire on that stormy evening. They could think and talk of nothing else but the dangers that surrounded them and the absent head of their family.

At last the grandmother said it would do no good to go on talking so and giving way to their fears; it would be much better to seek comfort from God's Word, and ask the protection of him without whose notice not even a sparrow can fall to the ground.

The wife brought out the family Bible, and read aloud from it the seventy-first psalm. These are some of the words that she read, and they were wonderfully appropriate to their circumstances: "In thee, O

Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. . . . Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort; . . . for thou art my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man."

When the psalm was finished, she read an evening hymn in keeping with the psalm. After singing this, they knelt down together in prayer. They told God about their fears, and asked him to protect them, as well as the absent loved one. They prayed for the poor and sick of the parish; for all evildoers, and especially for the wicked robber in their neighbourhood, that the Lord would have mercy upon him and change his heart and turn him from his evil ways.

After this their fears were gone, and they felt calm and comfortable. They had hardly finished their prayers, when they heard the well-known footsteps of him they were looking for approaching the house. He was brought home in safety. They were all very glad for this; for while they had been so uneasy about him, he had been feeling very much the same about them, fearing the robber might come and kill them while he was away. So he, too, felt very happy to find his family safe and well.

Before they went up-stairs to bed, the forester's wife told him how anxious they had felt about him during the evening, and how they had prayed to God to take care of him and of themselves. He smiled, as he had often done before, and said that she was a foolish woman to think that there was any use in praying. For his part he preferred to trust to his good weapons and to his faithful dogs. Then he examined the doors and windows to see that they were fastened; he loaded his firearms and unchained his dogs, and thought he could lie down to sleep without any cause for fear.

An hour or so later when the family were fast asleep, a desperate-looking man crept out from under the settle or old wooden

bench that stood there. It was the robber of whom they were so much afraid. He had managed to steal into the house about sundown when nobody saw him, and hide under the settle. There he had heard all that had been said. He had come in to have his revenge by murdering the whole family in their sleep, and now there was nothing to prevent his carrying out his purpose. Ah, yes, but there was! He went softly and silently to the table and laid down on it a large sharp knife he had brought with him, and picked up the Bible which the forester's wife had read from at their evening worship, which lay there open at the seventy-first psalm. The words of the psalm had had a wonderful effect upon him. He tried to read them over again in the feeble light of the moon, but it was too dark to see them, so he shut up the book. Then he stood by the table hesitating, thinking what he had better do. Two or three times he picked up the knife, and resolved to have his revenge by plunging it into the bosoms of the sleepers upstairs, but each time he laid it down again. He thought of the words of that wonderful psalm, and he was afraid to do it. He left the knife on the table, but took the Bible, and opening the window crept out so cautiously that even the watch-dogs, which had fallen asleep, neither saw nor heard him. Then he jumped over the hedge and disappeared in the dark shadows of the wood.

When the forester and his family came down the next morning and found the window open, and a great sharp knife lying on the table, and the Bible gone, they were, of course, very much surprised. The open window showed that some one had been in the house; the great knife showed that his object had been murder, while the missing Bible seemed to show that somehow it had been the means of saving them. The whole house was searched, but nothing was missing except the Bible. It was a mystery that no one could explain. The pious wife thanked God for their protection. Even her unbelieving husband could not help seeing that it was neither his dogs nor his guns that had saved him. He stopped laughing at his wife, and began to think there was something in religion after all.

After that night the robber was never seen nor heard of in that forest. Some time after this the French and the Prussians were fighting against each other; among those who fell, was our brave captain, the forester. His

men thought he was killed, and left him for dead on the field. A fisherman came up cautiously to see if a little hut of his on the shore had been destroyed by the army, and hearing the groans of the wounded man, he rowed his boat to land. Finding the officer lying in blood, he called his companions, and they carried the wounded man to the boat and rowed him to the opposite shore of the lake, about two miles distant. They landed in the neighbourhood of several cottages. Into one of these the wounded man was carried, the fisherman and his wife dressed his wound and nursed him with tender care. The fisherman wrote to the captain's family, and his wife and daughter came to nurse him and be with him. The fisherman and his wife gave them the use of their cottage, and they stayed with one of their neighbours until the soldier had recovered.

As he lay on the sick-bed, he thought of the wonderful way in which God had protected himself and his family from the robber on that memorable night. He thought of the way he had been taken care of when left for dead on the battle field. He saw God's hand in it all, and being led to pray earnestly, he became a Christian.

When well enough to go home, he thanked the kind fisherman for all that he had done for him, and wished to pay for the trouble he had caused him; but the fisherman would take nothing. When pressed, he said that he was much more indebted to the forester and his wife than they were to him, and that he had a great treasure of theirs which he had once taken away, and now wished to restore. Then he went to a closet and brought out a Bible. As soon as the forester's wife saw it, she recognised it as their dear old family Bible which had disappeared so strangely on that never-to-be-forgotten night. She caught it eagerly to her bosom, and then the fisherman told them the following story:—

"I see you don't recognize me," looking at the forester, "but I am the robber that caused such trouble in your neighbourhood till you caught my companions and had them put in prison. I was very angry with you for this, and swore to have revenge. I crept into your house about dark one evening, intending to murder you and all your family while you were asleep. All the evening I lay under the settle in your sitting-room, waiting for the hour when I could carry out my purpose. Against my will I was obliged to hear the

seventy-first psalm read aloud by your wife. It had a wonderful effect on me. When I heard her prayer, I was more affected. It seemed as if an unseen hand was laid upon me to keep me from doing what I had come to do. I felt that I could not do it. All my desire was to get that wonderful Book and read it. For weeks I kept it hid in the woods near your home. The Bible was my companion; and as I read it, I saw what a great sinner I was, and what a great Saviour there is in Jesus. That same Saviour who pardoned the thief on the cross had mercy on me and received me into his kingdom. Then I left that part of the country, and found employment with a fisherman in this

neighbourhood. As God had made a new man of me, I wished to begin a new life, and my excellent wife is helping me to serve God. We have all we want for this world, and are blessed with a hope for the next, and all this I owe to the Bible I found in your house that evening. You, forester, trusted to your guns and dogs; they could not have helped you any. Nothing but God's Word saved you. It was only that which kept me from plunging my knife into your bosom. It was that which protected you then; it is that which has saved you from the battle-field now. Don't thank me, but thank the merciful God who made use of his blessed Word to save both you and me."—*Selected.*



ON THE IRAWADDY RIVER, BURMA

CURRENT COMMENT

THE members of the British Cabinet have pooled their salaries, with the result that they draw £3,000 a year each.

THE official German casualty list for December shows 86,291, including 15,160 killed.

OFFICIAL reports from Rome state that no fewer than 110,000 people have died from starvation in Syria.

The British War Office has increased its property since the outbreak of the war from 50,000 acres to 200,000 acres of land. The rental value of the buildings acquired by the War Office and munitions department during the war is £2,500,000 a year.

THE British Food Controller has decided that the output of beer from April 1 onward shall be only seventy per cent of the output for the current year, ending March 31. This action is taken with a view to augmenting the supply of barley and of sugar for food purposes.

MR. Edison, whose premises are closely guarded, is working day and night upon the construction of the model of a 16ft. craft which, it is claimed, will revolutionize submarine warfare.

The *Aeroplane* announces that a new giant British machine, which was recently tested, attained an altitude of 7,000 ft. and carried 20 passengers, in addition to pilot.

THE German newspapers state that between August, 1914, and September, 1916, the United States shipped to the Allies war material valued at £394,000,000.

THE *Southern Cross* points out that fully one-third of the famous Austrian bells have found their way to the great munition factories.

MUNITIONS for English troops are now costing more than the total annual national expenditure before the war.

IT is interesting to note that Mr. Lloyd George has consented to address the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society in May. This illustrious Society during its long existence has received the support of many distinguished orators, but never before, we imagine, has a Prime Minister found time in the thick of a great

war to address its May meeting. Mr. Lloyd George, however, is a Welshman, and Wales probably owes more than most countries to the activities of the Bible Society which have played an important part in its religious and national development.

The re-building of the East End property destroyed by the recent explosion is making good progress. Four hundred houses have already been rendered weatherproof and 950 roofs have been re-built.

During the last year the American Dupont Powder Company had an income of £63,800,000. Its profits amounted to £16,400,000.

Ten German cities, including Wiesbaden, have closed all their theatres, music halls, public halls, and picture shows owing to lack of coal for heating.

SO great has been the flood of gold pouring into the United States from Europe since the war began, that American bankers have requested Great Britain not to pay for goods with gold, but rather with bills or bonds. The great inflow of gold has done much to raise prices and encourages wild speculation. That an incoming flood of gold does not necessarily mean prosperity for the country receiving it, is painfully evident to the great mass of people having ordinary incomes, for whom the high prices of life's necessities have the same meaning as hard times.

MRS. SUN YAT SEN, wife of the prominent Chinese reformer, recently joined the Baptist church at Macao, Southern China. She was baptized in the sea not far from the spot where, one hundred years ago, the first Protestant convert in China was baptized by Robert Morrison.

REPORTS are in circulation that England has in one of her shipyards, nearing completion, a forty-thousand-ton battleship, which will carry eighteen inch guns. The shells from such guns, it is estimated, would each inflict as much damage on an enemy ship as would be caused by a torpedo.

THE credit of the Bank of England before the war was £40,000,000, which was increased to £145,000,000 by the end of 1916.

DURING the war, England has sent to America £215,000,000 in gold.

A BERLIN report states that the war has cost Germany £2,500,000,000.

FRANCE is contemplating a general mobilisation of civilians.

IT is reported that there have been considerably over 200,000 children in France orphaned by the war.

DURING 1916 the Russians captured 8,770 officers, 420,000 men, 525 guns, 1,661 maxim guns, and 421 trench mortars.

A MESSAGE from Petrograd asserts that rich coal seams, lying close to the surface, have been discovered in Bessarabia.

IT has been decided by the French Government to confiscate the property of deserters from the navy or army, and of those who fail to report for military service when called upon.

A MESSAGE from Rome states that Italy has denounced her commercial treaties with Japan, Roumania, Serbia, Spain, and Switzerland, all of which lapse at the end of 1917.

Owing to the increased prices of food, the British Government has increased the separation allowances of soldiers and sailors. This will mean an additional expenditure of £10,000,000 a year.

THE Danish authorities are heavily punishing merchants who are illegally trading with Germany. One merchant, who exported 290 casks of train oil, was fined nearly £14,000, while two others were fined £440 and £1,500 respectively.

THE Imperial Government has purchased all rabbits at present on steamers going to England, and will use the best of them for the military hospitals and soldiers' rations, while the remainder will be sold through the usual trade channels.

According to Swiss information Germany lost 115 submarines up to February 15th, and Austria thirteen. The losses were heaviest in January and February.

THE Chinese press is expressing alarm at the manner in which Japan is pressing its demands on that country. Among the demands is that of the right to "police" southern Manchuria and inner Mongolia. When one country gets the right to police another, there is not much left of the other country's independence.

DIRECT wireless communication between America and Japan has been established. The Marconi station at San Francisco has

Steps to Christ

By Mrs. E. G. White

A Guide

To the Enquirer

A Companion

To the Young convert

A Storehouse

For the Mature Christian

Beyond all contradiction a better book has never been published.

Stiff paper covers—12 as.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY
LUCKNOW

YOUR STAY IN THE HILLS

Will be doubly beneficial
if combined with a course
of scientific treatments at

Grey Castle, Mussooree

—OR—

The Hydro, Belvedere, Simla

Both institutions have first
class electrical equipment and
skilled operators.

Signs of the Times

Or "ORIENTAL WATCHMAN"

Registered No. A 456



ISSUED every month by the International Tract Society, 17 Abbott Road, Lucknow.

Price Rs. 2-8-0 per year

SUBSCRIPTIONS are paid in advance and expire with the date given on the wrapper, unless renewed.

MONEY Orders and all business matters should be addressed to the Manager.

MANUSCRIPTS and all editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor.

REQUESTS for change of address should mention both old and new address.

REPLIES to advertisements should always mention where the ad was seen.

Printed and published at and for the International Tract Society, Lucknow, by W. S. Mead, 1065/17

succeeded in exchanging messages with a Japanese government station, five thousand eight hundred miles distant, without relay. Until now it has been necessary to relay wireless messages from Honolulu.

ITALIAN schoolmasters who are unfit for active service have been sent to teach in the re-opened schools in Albania.

AMONGST the military works carried out in connection with the Sinai campaign is the construction of 390 miles of railway.

IT is stated in the *Scientific American* that the British expenditure for aviation during 1916 was close on £50,000,000.

The Berlin-Baghdad Bombay Railway dream of Germany is two-thirds shattered, for now Baghdad is occupied by British troops.

India has subscribed £100,000,000 to the War fund. This will mean increased taxation to the extent of £3,000,000 annually.

The long expected revolution of Russia has at last taken place. Who would have dreamed it though three years ago? It is satisfactory to note, however, it has not been attended by much bloodshed.

THOUGHTS FROM THE MOUNT OF BLESSING

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE

One of the most helpful and inspiring volumes ever written.

218 Pages, tastefully illustrated
Stiff paper covers, post free, 14 as.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY
LUCKNOW

ELECTRIC POCKET LAMPS.



Storm and rain Proof!
Absolutely dangerless!
No smell!!! No blackness!!!

No matches or oil necessary!!!

Just press a button to get a dazzling flood of light.

Price Rs. 2/-, 2-8, 3/-, 3-8, 4/-, 5/-, and 6/-.

Postage. As. 6. extra.

Spare battery. As. 12.

We stock Torches, Hand lamps, Cycle lamps, call bells, bulbs, batteries, wires and every thing electric.

T. G. SHAH'S ELECTRIC STORES
AHMEDABAD

SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL TREATMENTS

FOR
DIGESTIVE DISORDERS
NERVOUS CONDITIONS
RHEUMATISM
GOUT, ETC. ETC.

ARE APPLIED AT THE

Sanitarium Treatment Rooms

SIMLA — : The Hydro, Belvedere
MUSSOOREE : Grey Castle (Camel's Back)
CALCUTTA : 75 Park Street

MODERN APPARATUS - - - SKILLED NURSES

Write the managers for fuller particulars.

Granola

—:O:—

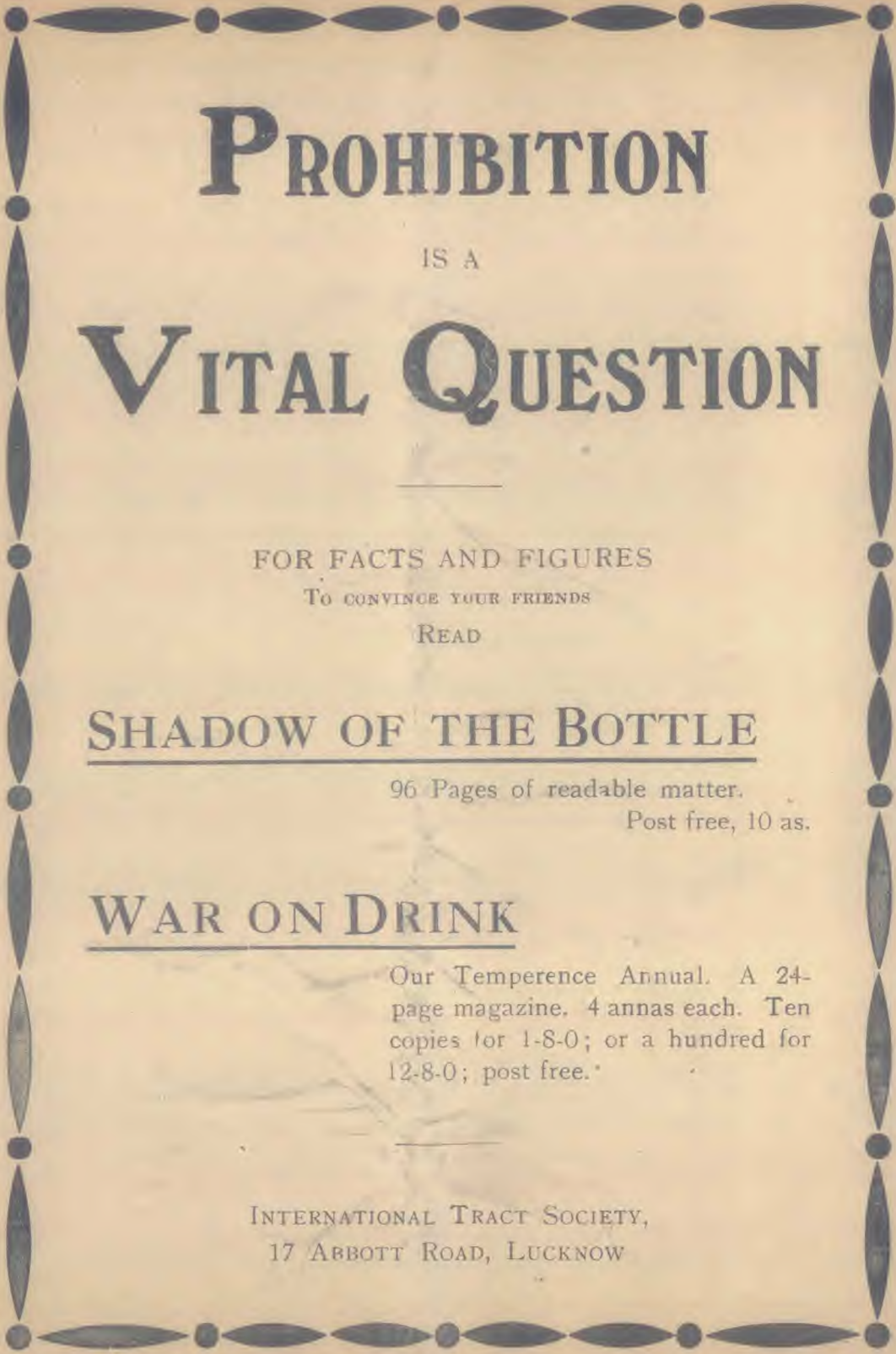
THE Breakfast Food for all weathers

Ready for Immediate Use

Supplied to the Army Medical Department by the ton
for the hospitals in Mesopotamia ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

Write at once for sample and prices to

GRANOLA; 75 Park Street, Calcutta



PROHIBITION

IS A

VITAL QUESTION

FOR FACTS AND FIGURES

TO CONVINCE YOUR FRIENDS

READ

SHADOW OF THE BOTTLE

96 Pages of readable matter.

Post free, 10 as.

WAR ON DRINK

Our Temperance Annual. A 24-page magazine. 4 annas each. Ten copies for 1-8-0; or a hundred for 12-8-0; post free.*

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY,
17 ABBOTT ROAD, LUCKNOW