

# The International Mind

**T**HE great aim of all lovers of their fellow-men to-day is to avert the possibility of another war. That is a sentiment that meets with warm applause when proclaimed at any public meeting. Our men who fought and died in the Great War enlisted with that noble ambition in their minds. The struggle between the Allies and the Central Powers of Europe was almost universally regarded as "a war to end war." The Treaty of Peace and the establishment of the League of Nations which terminated the war-period clearly recognised the supreme importance of drawing the nations together into a covenant with a view to common action and the substitution of arbitration for hostilities in future disputes between the countries of the world.

For about twelve years the League of Nations has been in existence, and although it has not accomplished everything that might have been hoped for in the realisation of its objects, it has become a great, and in fact, a unique centre of influence in the direction of peace and the furtherance of humanitarian measures. It has already averted several wars, and it has fostered far-reaching international interests. With the aid of the Kellogg Pact, binding the nations to banish war from their policies, it has considerably brightened the hopes of mankind for the establishment of a lasting peace.

## Mind to Control Force.

**O**NE thing is, however, becoming more and more clear in the study of current affairs, and that is the need of the International Mind as a force in the world. The abolition of the causes of war cannot be brought about merely by political and diplomatic means. We need to educate the people to think internationally, to see the other fellow's point of view, and to show hospitality to all great ideas, from whatever quarter they may take their origin.

The aim of the friends of the human race to-day is not merely to banish war, to prevent the outbreak of hostilities; in fact, it cannot be summed up in negative terms at all. That aim is positive, constructive, and educational. Our purpose is to establish peace on the foundations of goodwill, mutual understanding and respect. And it is only by putting something better, something more generally accepted in the place of war that the old fighting instinct in human nature can be sublimated. The League of Nations, Disarmament Conferences and the settlement of burning issues between the powers can achieve the object of world peace only as the thought and feeling of mankind are educated up to a loftier standard, and as public opinion throughout the world is trained to follow the lead of the most clear-sighted men and women.

This is thoroughly understood by the advocates of world peace. The leaders of the various nations realise that they cannot move far in advance of their times. They must be enabled to feel that they can carry the people with them, not only in times of tranquillity, but in periods of storm and stress.

**S**O impressed was I by the talk, on Monday, by Dr. E. N. Merrington, Master of Knox College, Dunedin, that I asked the editor to afford space for its appearance as an article. By courtesy of the doctor in providing the notes of his address, this valuable contribution is now placed permanently on record for our readers. It must, of necessity, lose much of its effect through the inability of the printed word to carry the same power and vivid force as the spoken word. This lecture was one of the most effective to which I have had the pleasure of listening. Its particular value lies in the fact that it places the theories of the idealist well within the bounds of possibility.—Critic.

Many of the warmest friends of peace among the national leaders find themselves hampered on many sides by the lack of common opinion and enthusiastic allegiance to the best interests of humanity. Hence several organisations have been formed with the object of teaching the people to think internationally. The League of Nations has its Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, as well as its Sub-committee of Experts, who were appointed in 1925 "to consider the best methods of co-ordinating official and non-official efforts designed to familiarise young people throughout the world with the principles and work of the League, and to train the younger generation to regard international co-operation as the normal method of conducting world affairs."

## Starting in the Schools.

**T**HAT introduces us to the schools, both primary and secondary, as the first field of endeavour in this enterprise. Education must cope with those prejudices, dislikes, aversions, and even hatreds which grow up like weeds in the child-mind, and serve as the prolific breeding-grounds of national suspicions and antagonisms.

The attitude of the teacher himself is very important in this task. If he is narrow in his outlook, the pupils will undoubtedly reflect many of his prejudices. Hence we must look to the teachers to set a high standard of open-mindedness and fairness to peoples other than their own. The methods of teaching also need to be revised—in fact, they are being revised. Such subjects as his-

tory, and geography in particular, should be taught from a less biased standpoint than has been customary in the past.

As the declaration of the educational authorities of Great Britain, at a conference held in 1927 stated: "Particularly the growing sense of the interdependence of communities, as shown, e.g., in the work of the League of Nations, should receive due prominence." If all the nations and races of the world can be induced to adopt this aim of creating in the minds of the next generation a feeling of human brotherhood, a very influential contribution towards bringing in a better and more peaceful era will have been accomplished. I would like to pay a tribute here to the work of the W.E.A. and the League of Nations Union, which undoubtedly has pride of place in the propaganda for world peace.

## Study in the Universities.

**W**E pass on to the universities from which many of the leaders of thought will emerge. What is being done to train the students of the world to think internationally? Such agencies as the World Student Christian Federation—of which Dr. T. Z. Koo is a distinguished representative—and the National Union of Students have already accomplished much in the way of preparing the ground. In addition, we may count upon wise leadership from most of the professors who have been brought into touch with the subject.

In the Institute of Pacific Relations we have a fruitful movement, which studies the facts and problems of all countries bordering upon the Pacific Ocean, and has made a strong appeal to university men and women. But besides these, we find that professorial chairs have been established in Great Britain, Europe and America for direct treatment of world problems. At Oxford, for example, a highly distinguished thinker, Professor Alfred Zimmern, has recently been appointed to fill the newly-established chair of International Relations.

Professor Shotwell, of Columbia University, New York, who has already done remarkable work for world peace, inclusive of suggesting the original idea of the Kellogg Pact for the renunciation of war, has recently suggested that an institute for studying European affairs on the lines of the Pacific Institute should be inaugurated. The difficulties are immense; but the conception may bear fruit in the near future. All these are signs of the changing times and the widespread desire for what Lessing called in his famous title "The Education of the Human Race."

## Need to Control Science.

**B**UT valuable as all such agencies are, the interests of humanity must lead us further. The savants and the experts are sometimes afflicted with "a blind spot" which is as dark as night. Specialists who are unable to see beyond their own subjects are among the worst victims of limited vision on world topics. In philosophy, too, there are national schools of thought which never look beyond their own national representatives, and never quote from those who

(Concluded on page 29.)

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the  
World  
Over"

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