

I saw the Christmas Star pierce the heavens, the Star which the Wise Men followed from lands afar to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I heard Heaven's choir of angels sing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

Awakened by my mother, I thought I could still hear the Christmas choir of angelic voices singing, "Gloria in excelsis Deo. . . ."

### A Prayer

That night at Midnight Mass, as the choir began the Gloria, my thoughts returned to my dream. I resolved to spend much of my Christmas Day in meditation on the circumstances of the birth of the Christ Child, so that I might know and serve Him better; and I asked the Prince of Peace to teach a materialistic world the spiritual lessons of Bethlehem, to bring to justice the Herod of present-day Germany, to restore to the people whom St. Boniface brought to the feet of the New-born King the blessing of Christian rulers, and to grant to the whole world peace, happiness, and a blessed Christmas.

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### GERMAN MILITARISM

Kent Macdonald, '46

When the war against Germany is won, our work will be only partly finished. We must make sure that our sacrifices shall not have been in vain. In order to do this we must get to the very root of the German Problem. And here we find a type of mind, a national disease which will require our best efforts to cure. The stamping out of German militarism will be a very difficult task.

What is this affliction which has held Germany in its clutches for so long? German militarism is something which is hard to grasp and put into words. It is a type of mind that glorifies war, and gives its possessors the idea that they are a master-race destined to conquer and rule. It began with the medieval Teutonic Knights and has been preserved through the centuries in victory and defeat until it has again broken forth in our day with a return to the primitive in an exhibition of brutality which has shocked the entire world.

Many people may imagine that this militarism is an affliction of the ignorant classes alone. On the contrary, it is more apparent in men of genius and education. The more richly endowed the human soul becomes, the more it tends to concentrate all its powers toward a supreme good. If, as is the case in Germany, this tendency is not absorbed by religion, it will be lavished on something else. And so in Germany for many years the work of men of genius and culture has been directed toward the idolatry of war, material success, and the German race.

This militarism has been called by Professor von Sombart, "Beethoven in the trenches." It has not been created by Hitler; rather, Hitler was created by it. Here is a portion of German philosophy which acknowledges and glorifies the existence of the man of prey. "There are peoples whose strong racial stock has preserved the qualities of the man of prey—master races who plunder and conquer, lovers of war against their fellowmen—people who know the feeling of triumph which possesses the wild beast when its prey is quivering in its claws." Does this teaching not fit in with Nazi practices in Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, and other occupied countries? Yet this doctrine was taught long before Hitler came to power in a work which maintains that the weak have no right to live. This view of life is instilled into the heart of nearly every German; although it has been used by the Nazis to suit their purposes, it is not of their invention.

We can readily see, then, that the defeat of National Socialism will not of itself be a turning point toward a moral conversion any more than was their German defeat in 1918. Their hatred for England and their worship of material success will serve but to goad them on to greater efforts of preparation for revenge. It will not be a turning point of itself, but it may be made as such by a well planned and executed program of instruction and guidance, a program which will very gradually transform the German race to a status of mentality toward its fellowmen more in conformity with the culture and civilization of our age.

To do this we must first win their confidence by an honest and humane government. This will be very difficult because of the hatred for England and capital-

ism which has been hammered into them for over half a century. Hitler's ideas and those of his predecessors have been taught them from the cradle to schools and universities. German women are ninety percent behind der Fuehrer. Men of culture and refinement are his most reliable supporters. Their schools, then, will have to be purged of their militaristic ideas and a wholly new plan of reading and study will have to be devised for them. Religion will have to be reinstated as a moderating force on their emotions. This work cannot be done in a few years. It must go on under systematic planning and execution for at least a generation. This plan will call for a vast amount of work. Yet it is a work that must be done to guarantee the peace and prosperity of future generations.

Only then will we have a race of real people—a race filled with the classical and scientific genius of its predecessors, yet free from the chains of Prussian militarism which misdirected and enslaved its talents.

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### THE EVIL EFFECTS OF SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

James Morris, '46

Socialized medicine, often termed state medicine, is a form of medical organization strictly opposed to our present system. In socialized medicine the government runs the whole medical organization and pays the doctors a regular salary. This plan can place a doctor wherever it pleases, and obtains its financial help by means of a special tax inflicted on the people. Although state medicine has some advantages over our present system, I think that such a plan would meet with nothing short of complete failure in our country.

The medical system which we now have in Canada is not responsible for all the conditions which now exists. The condition in which medicine now finds itself is not a result of poor service, unequal distribution of physicians, or excessive fees. The increased cost of sickness is a direct result of outside parasitical growths, extravagant hospitals, unnecessary clinical laboratory tests, and nation-wide economic disturbances.