

3.

May 31st. I answered:

Just a line to dot the i's, as the French say. I am sure I should have liked J. W. White just as I liked Keen and all these fine Americans I have known, but that is not the point. The point is that you told me he was full of good Quaker blood and yet had written a book supporting the war; and when he died I found that this good "Quaker" had fought a duel at 28 years of age to decide whether he should wear some popinjay uniform or not. In other words, his opinions were not those of a man whose daily conduct was ruled by reason.

I learn that in the XIXth. century, over 14 million men laid down their lives at war. The XXth. century - and for both you and I are partly responsible - bids fair to beat even that ghastly record. And "it passes your <sup>sympathy</sup> ~~perception~~" how I can be a Pacifist! I ask you, what in God's name, you would have me be? A "Patriot"? But so is the Turk, and the German, so are we all and always have been.

Now, I have dotted the i's and should stop, but I must add a little.

No, patriotism is the altar on which the world has sacrificed too long. I might not go as far as Herbert Spencer when he said: "Were anyone to call me dishonest or untruthful he would touch me to the quick. Were he to say I am unpatriotic, he would leave me unmoved", but unless we learn to modify our murderous "patriotism" with a little Internationalism or Humanitarianism - well, we will degenerate considerably.

You must add a new chapter to your "Principles and Practice of Medicine" on War - a disease of Civilisation.



Sometimes I think the actiology is clear; a combination of ignorance, a tragic lack of humour and arterio-sclerogis of the brain-vessels. The peoples, of course, are kept in complete ignorance, the Professors, divines and journalists show an extraordinary lack of humour in all shouting to God and cursing each other, (1) and the old men can't help it. The literal application of your suggestion of chloroform at 60 to rid us of our Bernhards, Von Tirpitz, Spencer Wilkinsons and Roberts "et hoc genus omne", may yet prove necessary to save the people.

The treatment is equally easy :

1) Open diplomacy, all treaties laid on the tables of parliament.	2) The open door in commerce, world wide.
	3) Gradual reduction of armaments.
	4) World federation of power to enforce arbitration.

It would make a good chapter, but you would have to modify your ideas. Don't say that is impossible!

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(1)

God heard the embattled nations shout:

"Gott strafe England" and "God save the King",

God this, God that and God the other thing!

Good God, ~~and~~ God, I've got my work cut out!