

The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month.

As one of the people of New Zealand am I a clog on the wheel—an aimless atom—or a real impelling force? An asset—an adjunct—or a deficit?

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ALL NATION'S DAY

History repeats itself, so our wise-acres tell us. Recent events have caused our thoughts to hark back to the beginning of our era—our Anno Domini—which era was born amid the travail pangs caused by the break-up of the Roman Empire. Since the conclusion of the titanic struggle between Rome and Carthage, the former had remained mistress of the world—a proud title—but only a small world.

Paleolithic man was head of the family and owned its members and their belongings. But constant feuds between families had caused them to unite into tribes for protection against other tribes. Then tribes united into nations, and Rome had gathered many nations beneath her wing. Are we not now upon the verge, not of a world empire, but of a world federation of nations?

But in Rome "where wealth accumulated, then men decayed." Hosts of slaves worked and the Roman master spent his time in ease and luxury and national decay set in.

The virile tribes of Goths and, later, Huns ravaged the outskirts of the empire, until in A.D. 410 legions were recalled from Britain and outposts of empire to guard the heart of the empire. But in Bethlehem had been born Jesus, the greatest reformer of any age, the Son of God, Who came to inaugurate a new era. He taught the fatherhood of God; the brotherhood of man; the value of the individual, and that love is to be the force to bind the whole wide world into one universal Kingdom of God.

But the Jews were not ready for such teaching, and they accused Jesus before the Roman Governor and He "was crucified under Pontius Pilate." But death could not hold its prey and He rose from the dead, tarried 40 days among his disciples, then took His flight to His heavenly home. But He left behind a precious gift—His spirit. No longer confined in an earthy body, this Spirit fills all space and dwells in all nations and peoples and this Holy Spirit "whom the Father will send in My name shall teach you all things."

THE DANGER OF ALCOHOL IN EMERGENCIES.

Never give alcohol to a patient except under definite medical advice.
—Dr. Courtenay Weeks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

There is no disease in the world for which alcohol is a cure.
—Prof. Howard A. Kelly, John Hopkins University.

Alcohol belongs to the same group of narcotics as ether, chloroform and chloral.
—Arthur D. Bevan, M.D.

In shock or collapse give plenty to drink, preferably warm drinks, best of all, warm very sweet tea.

—Issued by Dept. of Health, England, for Dept. of Health, Scotland, June, 1940.

The above advice was also given by Dr. Smith of N.Z. Health Dept. in a broadcast last week (June, 1942).

Dr. O'Brien, Christchurch, addressing Convention:—

"In accidents much harm is done by administering alcohol. When bleeding is present, to give alcohol quickens the heart beat and increases the loss of blood."

This Spirit descended upon Saul of Tarsus and transformed him into Paul the Apostle, who traversed the length and breadth of the Roman Empire preaching the Gospel and winning many converts until the Roman Empire owned the sway of the Nazarene and became "The Holy Roman Empire." In 410 Rome was sacked by the Goths under Alaric. But these Goths had come under Christian influence and Alaric exhorted his followers to spare the lives of the unresisting citizens, and to respect the Churches of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, as holy and inviolable sanctuaries. And now we face another crisis; not a nation, not a continent, but a world in arms. But a gleam lights up the gloom.

As a parallel to last era closing with the break-up of the Roman Empire, we are told that this era will close with the break-up of the British Empire. But when Mr. Churchill, representing Britain, the mother of nations, and the greater Britain beyond the seas, met President Roosevelt of the U.S.A.—the

daughter who had left her mother and set up housekeeping on her own—when they joined together they gave to the world the Atlantic Charter, with its promise of freedom for all, justice for all, and access to raw products of the earth—God's gift to every man—then a new era began and Christ's teachings were brought into the region of practical politics. And this month All Nations Day was celebrated by 28 nations who will support the Atlantic Charter.

The essence of Christ's teaching was "God so loved that He GAVE." And before the principles of the Atlantic Charter can govern this world, not only men, but nations must substitute for the old slogan of GET the new one of GIVE.

Unaided we cannot learn this lesson but the spirit of Christ is still His gift to the world. We pray "Thy Kingdom Come," and come it will when men and women everywhere open their hearts and minds to the teaching of this spirit. Then will come the day when "each will love his brother as himself" and