



[Photo. by D. & W. Prophet

*Back Row*—Ismay R. J. Kerr (Girl's Senior Swimming Championship); D. Wilson (McEwan Cricket Prize); I. A. Duffus (Urquhart Cup—Champion Shot); J. S. G. Blair (Boase Medal and Pirie Cup for Golf); G. R. Leddie (McEwan Cricket Prize); Anne M. Thomson (Leng Silver Medal—Singing).

*Second Row*—R. S. W. Chawla (Dux, Gym, Form II. Boys. Polack Gold Medal); D. H. K. Barrie (Bryson Prize for Technical Subjects); Joyce Pringle (Dux in Gymnastics—Girls); G. W. Mottashaw (Champion Athlete—Airlie Cup, Winner of the Mile—Loveridge Cup); Helen M. Crockatt (Cunningham Medal for the Dux in Science); D. F. Collins (Dux—Form III. Boys—Jane Spiller Prize); Dorothy S. Nichol (Dux (equal) in Mathematics—Dott Memorial Medal); M. J. R. Miller (Junior Swimming Championship).

*Third Row*—Winifred A. H. Wilson (Dux Form III. Girls—Jane Spiller Prize); I. D. McIntosh (Dux in Art—Dott Memorial Medal); Margaret R. Reid (Dux in French—Armitstead Medal, Dux in German—Dott Memorial Medal); A. Smith (School Dux—Boys); Elizabeth A. Menzies (School Dux—Girls and Dux in English, Latin; Girls' Tennis Champion); William S. Taylor (Dux, Boys in Gymnastics—Ballingall Gold Medal); Sheila M. Elliott (Dux (equal) in Mathematics—Dott Memorial Medal); S. Hynd (Intermediate Champion Athlete—Harold Young Martin Rose Bowl).

*In Front*—Margaret D. White (Dux of Lower V. Girls—MacLennan Prize); Ian S. Stark (Oakley Cup—Best Shot, 1st Year); Yvonne D. Cassaday (Girls Junior Tennis Cup—presented by Mrs Crystal); A. S. J. Sharp (Junior Champion Athlete—Aystree Cup); Maureen Wadsworth (Girls Junior Swimming Champion); Ian Taylor (Dux of Lower V. Boys—Polack Prize); J. S. White (Prox. Acc.—Dux Lower V. Boys). Absent—Henry B. Gibb (Boys' Championship Trophy for Swimming).

security and promise. It is essential that a new international body should be created, under whose protection nations may ultimately be able to rise to the height of their own stature, so far as they can themselves combine social progress with self-restraint and mutual help.

Such a body was first created in 1919. The League of Nations was meant to secure just those objects of world co-operation and peace which to-day are the clear or unvoiced desire of every decent citizen. But men and women had not been educated to its necessity, and were apt to regard it as something extraneous to themselves, which could function without their active support, or as a hindrance to their own national aims. Such indifference or opposition has meant another war, and there is no nation free from blame. The United States of America, which was largely responsible for the creation of the League, never became a Member, and withdrew into the policy of isolation which she had pursued before 1914. France, baulked of a promised alliance with Great Britain and the United States, used the League for her own ends, and tried to perpetuate her military predominance in Europe. Japan laughed the League to scorn when it attempted to interfere with her Manchurian adventure, and replied to a vote of censure by withdrawing. Italy defied the half-hearted sanctions imposed upon her, and went on to conquer and annex Abyssinia. Russia, in contempt of her obligations, imposed her will by force on Finland. The smaller countries, frightened by the guns and bayonets of the great Powers, took refuge in a weak and hopeless reassertion of neutrality. Throughout the whole period, Great Britain hesitated, now appearing as the champion of collective security, and now pursuing a timid policy of concession in the face of threats. When the final challenge came from Germany the League had been broken in pieces, and only a weak and unco-ordinated defence could be offered to the mighty onslaught of 1939.

The war has seen what in effect was the gradual rebuilding of the broken fragments of the League, until the United Nations were able to wield overwhelming power and bring it to bear relentlessly on the aggressor. At

one time only the foundation was left, for, in spite of failures and shortcomings, it is the general policy of the British Empire which was reflected in the aims of the League. Since 1940 the nations have gathered round that nucleus until in 1945 nearly fifty sovereign States have met in conference at San Francisco to hammer out the constitution of a new international organisation. It cannot be doubted that if these nations had held together in the years between 1919 and 1939 any challenge from a recalcitrant State could easily have been met and overcome. The new "League" looks as if it is likely to have more power than the old, and the provision for joint action should make defiance a hard and dangerous game. Whether it is as firmly planted in the principle of understanding and justice is another matter. Probably we ought not to be down-hearted in consequence, because the conference meets at a time when sheer force is the dominant factor in the world, and every government must first establish order before it can go on to establish the conditions of better and fairer living. The first draft of the new covenant is not the final word, and political progress consists in the gradual substitution of consent for force.

Here then is the call to the young, the finest memorial which they can construct to those who have given their lives. The task in front of them is hard, and demands clear thinking and intensive study of past and present history. They must relieve hunger, reconstruct the shattered economic and political life of Europe and a great part of Asia, improve the conditions and standards of life, and bring back to the world that respect for human freedom and personality which is the heritage of Christian civilisation; and while doing that they must create the necessary machinery to ensure international peace and co-operation. It is a splendid challenge, and I believe it will be cheerfully accepted. Events have given the boys and girls of to-day a clearer vision than was the case a quarter of a century ago, and when the testing time comes again, five, ten, or twenty years hence, they will, I think, be found equal to the greatness of their opportunity.

I. M. B.