

EDITORIAL

It was only a few weeks ago that students gathered, quietly, thoughtfully, in the College of Religion here at Butler to hear, by radio, the President of the United States asking our Congress for a declaration of war on Japan. Needless to say, it was not a war of any American's choosing; indeed the Japanese military organization had made attack without any warning—even while apparently sponsoring talk of peace at our nation's capitol—upon U. S. civilian settlements in the Pacific Ocean.

Even then it was accepted by most Americans that the great fiasco of the second decade of this century had to be repeated.

But need it be? Need it be?

Here in the quiet halls of Butler University it is difficult to realize that there is a war. Men are drafted, or voluntarily enlist, and leave their classes. There are service clubs, a few wartime courses are added; there are talk and rumors; sometimes one hears that a friend or acquaintance has been killed or wounded; one worries when there is a lull after excitement. But most of our war is still in the newspapers.

We are yet able to look at this terrible thing as the vision of man fighting with his own evil, which he has carelessly allowed to batten. We are still able to look upon the adversaries of our armed troops as human beings betrayed by their own weak-

nesses and a few unscrupulous men.

The English department is still printing MSS, wherein we hope are contained the sensible realization and sometimes the successful solution of some of the problems which life presents to college students—as well as the expression in artistic form of emotions and ideas of college young people.

It seems to us that if MSS continues as the quietly articulate voice of the literary students of Butler University, it will be serving a powerful, if obscure, purpose.

The facing of spiritual realities which the production of any but the most superficial literature requires is going to build the only world of the future which will be fit to live in. This cognizance of the truth, this facing of realities, is blurred and rendered impotent in a time of war by the emotional and physical stress which everyone undergoes. Men forget that they are fighting ideas and spirits which they feel are inimical; they fight as it were a personal matter—man against man. They lose sight of any real victory, and come to think that total destruction of the enemy is the only one.

So we are going to continue publishing MSS; for we feel that it is a manifestation of the spirit that may prevent another Versailles; another period of reconstruction, inflation, speculation; another crisis and depression; another Hitler or Mussolini and all they stand for; another Munich.

