CORRESPONDENCE

INTERNATIONAL WAR

SIR,—In your recent issues the articles and correspondence on war show a marked tendency to discuss secondary problems rather than the central one; emphasis seems to be upon the lawfulness or unlawfulness of the means employed. But, if a man is unjustifiably attacked by an aggressor—both parties being conscious of where the unjust aggression lies—he is presumably morally entitled, though not morally compelled, to defend himself, and in so doing need not be restricted to hitting above the belt; he may 'hit hard, hit quick, hit anywhere.' If a nation is a political, social, mental and moral unity, such as the theory of nationalism implies, it is difficult to see why the non-soldiering element should be morally entitled to preferential treatment and be regarded as immune from attack. I submit, however, that the theory in question is properly indefensible, and would ask Fr. Victor White before concluding his war articles to give some attention to it and to the logical conclusions that follow its denial.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN NIBB.

C.T.S. IN CHINA

SIR,—I take the liberty of asking for some space in your valuable paper in order to convey an earnest appeal to all your readers who are interested in missionary work.

All those who have followed the development of the war in China may be surprised to hear that, although hundreds of churches have been destroyed and flourishing Christian units have been dispersed, still the war has given an opportunity to the Church to show its charity, and this has brought about a very considerable movement of mass conversions.

In many provinces of China, missionaries are so pressed with the demands of new converts that they can hardly afford to have an adequate number of catechists to instruct them. It is therefore necessary for them to use books and leaflets to convey the knowledge of the elementary principles of Christian doctrine to the new Catholics. However, owing to the urgent demands of relief for the suffering victims of the war and the work of reconstruction of their churches, many missionaries cannot afford to buy Catholic Chinese literature, which, under the present circumstances, would prove also a very powerful means of Catholic propaganda.

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It is the ambition and the desire of our Catholic Truth Society to send to these missionaries books and pamphlets which might help them in their work. However, we are unable to undertake this important work on an adequate scale owing to lack of funds.

We feel confident that your readers will fully understand and appreciate the importance of this work, and we hope that they will extend their generous help to suffering China which needs the enlightenment of Catholic Truth as much as it needs food and help for its suffering population.

The Catholic Truth Society of Hong Kong will undertake, therefore, with your support, to supply this need. To the full extent of every donation received, Chinese Catholic literature, acquired at cost price, will be distributed free of all charge to missionaries in China. As this literature is produced at a cost that is small according to foreign standards, even the smallest donation will help and will be gladly received. One American dollar will supply from forty to sixty pamphlets, and one shilling from eight to twelve.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply, we beg to convey to you and your readers our anticipated thanks.

Yours sincerely (on behalf of the Committee),

(Rev.) N. Maestrini, *Hon. Secretary.*

WILLIAM MURDOCH

Sir,—This year celebrates the centenary of the death of William Murdoch, the first man to find a practical way of using gas for lighting and the inventor of the first road locomotive.

The William Murdoch Memorial Committee has entrusted me with the task of preparing a life of Murdoch. If any of your readers can assist me by the loan of documents concerning the early history of gas or by suggesting sources of information on Murdoch's work in this and other fields, I should be most grateful. All documents, etc., will be carefully preserved and returned to their senders.—Yours, etc.,

Bernard Drummond.

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1 Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

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