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quiries were ordered.

RELIGION AND WAR.

A good deal has been said and written about the spiritual revival which some people have declared to have manifested itself as an outcome of the war. Only a few days ago a prominent Y.M.C.A. worker told a Brighton audience that, while there is a great searching of the spirit in the Army, and a new accessibility to religion, there is nothing at all resembling such a great revival. Much the same thing was said by the President of the National Free Church Council, the Rev. G. Hooper, at the annual meetings of the Worthing Free Church Council on Thursday. Said the National Free Church President, "A great deal has been heard from time to time about this war producing a revival of spiritual religion. I don't believe it. There is nothing in the ethics of war to create spiritual revivals." Many young men from the schools and churches had withstood the temptations of the camp and its surroundings, and would return stronger men because of the struggles they had encountered and the victory they had achieved. But other lads had fallen morally, and to these the Church must make heroic appeal. They had to make the young fellows feel that to be a Christian was to play the man. There was no need to abolish sermons for "ten-minute talks." The "boys" did not judge sermons by the length, but by the breadth, and some of them by the depth. "We have tried for 25 years to bind our young people to the churches with cups of tea and Bath buns; and there is not a man here that can say that has been effective." Now was the opportunity to sweep snobbery out of the churches. The young men who had been in the trenches would not stand it. There bricklayers and bank clerks, miners and men of wealth, were soldiers of the King, comrades, brothers. They must be able when they returned to find that comradeship and brotherhood in the churches. Mr. Hooper alluded to coming changes in rural England and in the Free Churches. He did not think there would be more than one Methodist Church in England in 1922. His idea was one church of the Connexion order in a village, the other buildings providing institutes where the village lad could find that comradeship which at the front he found at the Y.M.C.A. hut. The Rev. J. G. B. Corin, secretary of the Brighton and Sussex Free Church Council, spoke of the new attitude of the Established Church towards the Free Churches, particularly as shown in Brighton and Hove, and said they needed more than ever in these days to fight the small sectarian spirit. It was not at all impracticable to make England once again a Merrie England, with its foundations touching the great fundamental moralities of life. But if they thought that after the war they were going to have a mere march past to a new and better England, they were living in a fool's paradise. To obtain reforms had never been a mere walk-over. Look at what was happening to the Education Bill even now! In the course of his speech Mr. Corin said he would like to see every agricultural labourer in the country with £2 a week. The Rev. G. Houlder was elected to succeed the Rev. G. Wood as president of the Worthing Council. The report contained a reference to action with regard to following up the Y.M.C.A. war roll cards, and the National President that some 23,000 of such cards sent out by the lads in camp or trench had been dealt with by the Free Church Council Federation.

Upwards of 2,250 pearls are now in hand for the Red Cross pearl necklace.