

SPIRITUALISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—As a side issue in the correspondence concerning spiritualism, "Berter" asks for proof about the "oft-repeated fable" that materialism led to the late war. He then proceeds to quote Treitschke, "God will see to it that war constantly occurs as a drastic medicine for the human race." Now, Treitschke, most certainly like all true Prussians, only considered references to the Godhead as picturesque methods of speech. He would not even go so far as the Kaiser, whose god was a mere comrade. Treitschke, be it remembered, was born in Saxony, but became a Prussian subject because of his admiration for Prussian aims and Prussian philosophy. Treitschke, indeed, was in all respects a disciple of Nietzsche. And in the Nietzschean philosophy we have the very apotheosis of materialism. Nietzsche was a neo-Darwinian, then a Monist. And the Monists repudiate morality, and have an amused contempt for the Christian ideals of honour and fidelity. Nietzsche's words are almost incredibly blasphemous. "I am an immoralist," he writes, "I denounce Christianity and its ideals. Might, not right, is my creed. Cruelty and murder are legitimate methods of progress." Such words, in effect, might have been the text of the German Chancellor's speech in the Reichstag on the declaration of war in 1914—that notorious speech saying "Necessity knows no law," of which the "Times" said: "It is, we believe, the most crude avowal on record of utter unmorality on the part of a great State. Here, then, we have the corollary to the audacity of thought which was the fruit of German materialism. As, after all, ideas govern the world, it is patent that your correspondent "Berter" has no warrant for declaring the fact that materialism made the war to be a fable. I am, etc.,

FLORENCE GAY.

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