

CHAPTER XIV

Migration. The Need for International Study

"It chanced we from the city were,
And had not gat us free
In spirit from the store and stir
Of its immensity :

"But here we found ourselves again,
Where humble harvests bring
After much toil but little grain,
'Tis merry winnowing."

ROBERT BRIDGES, "The Winnowers."

MIGRATION is an international problem, and it has recently entered on a new phase attended with special international difficulties. The quota system of the United States has been bitterly resented by some countries; for they regard the selection of the year 1890 for its basis, and the adoption of a device for the permanent quota which excludes all but a dribble from the countries of southern and eastern Europe, as a deliberate and unjust discrimination against them. They consider the system was drafted with a cold hardening of heart against their clamant needs. The demand, moreover, in all the immigration countries for the complete assimilation of the immigrants conflicts with the increased desire of the emigrant countries to retain the nationality of their citizens. This desire is partly due to the greater vigour of national sentiment in Europe and partly to fear of the reduction of military strength. The effort to retain some hold on their emigrants must be expected to be especially