

Britain, Canada and the United States allow themselves to be dependent upon Germany for such products. We have the material and the brains and make these two meet and give us the finished product.

There is no good reason why Germany should enter upon the *status quo ante* when the war is over; and find all her rights in the Allied countries the same as in the days of peace. That she planned a brutal war there is no doubt; that she has waged it in a brutal and savage manner there is no doubt, and that she has ill-treated the prisoners of war there is no doubt. All this should have meted out the severest sort of punishment.

Germany's methods of business have been most unscrupulous. She flooded the world with agents to sell her drug products under fancy names, and at high prices under patents. It was not long until drugs intended for prescription order found their way into the hands of the general public. This was the scheme from the beginning of these manufacturers and agents.

The United States has set a good example. That country has cancelled the patents of those who made salvarsan and all kindred preparations, and has authorized firms in the country to produce these drugs at a reasonable price. This is one good step in the right direction. We hope to see the Government of Canada act in a similar manner.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE BLOOD IN IRRITABLE HEART.

Grace Briscoe and Lyn Dimond (*British Medical Journal*, August 18, 1917) call attention to the fact that several observers have reported finding organisms in the blood of cases of irritable heart. They made two series of observations, in the first of which they also obtained a number of positive cultures. They were subsequently able to determine that most, if not all, of these were due to contamination. A second series of cultures was therefore undertaken with an improved technique, and one which had been shown to eliminate practically all danger from contamination. In this second series, which included ninety-six observations on forty-three cases, all of the cultures remained sterile, except a few which later became contaminated from the air when the flasks were opened. It was concluded that there was no evidence of bacteriemia in cases of irritable heart.—*New York Medical Journal*.