

The Canada Lancet

Vol. L.

TORONTO, MAY, 1917

No. 9

EDITORIAL

GERMANS SPREADING TUBERCULOSIS.

The evidence is now complete that German doctors deliberately inoculated the French with tubercular infection. This is one of the most heinous of crimes, and is the prostitution of science to the vilest of purposes. It is almost inconceivable that members of the medical profession could descend to such deeds; and prior to this war, such a thing would have been impossible, but now we have the proof. Many doubted the Belgian atrocities until the Bryce report was published. Some doubted wilful murder until the Cavell, and the Fryatt, and the Lusitania cases convinced the world that what Germany could not do by war she would try to do by murder and frightfulness. Some time ago a lady gave out to the world the statement that Germany was spreading tuberculosis among the French. This is now a statement we are prepared to accept; for have we not the burning of Russian wounded with a doctor and some nurses in a building where they were surrounded? Have we not the deliberate sinking of hospital ships? Have we not the sinking of ships with food for the starving Belgians? Have we not the enclosing of prisoners with those who were ill with typhus fever?

The authority for the inoculation of tubercle bacilli is vouched for by Dr. Theodore Beebe, of Boston, and Drs. Cailleux and Caquille, of France. Under the pretext that smallpox was prevalent, the German doctors vaccinated the French citizens in the covered areas. Those who were not vaccinated contracted other diseases in the usual way, but those who had been vaccinated suffered heavily from tuberculosis. Here we have "confirmation strong as proofs from Holy Writ." Dr. Beebe said that "it is a highly significant fact that only those who have been vaccinated have developed tuberculosis, whereas unvaccinated children are suffering from pneumonia and other diseases, and unvaccinated older people, while extremely ill, show no signs of tuberculosis. This state of affairs must naturally point grave suspicion toward the German practices."