

THE GERMAN USE OF SCIENCE TO SPREAD DISEASE.

The following is quoted from the *Medical Record* of 15th December, 1917. As it bears out what we have often stated, we give it to our readers as confirmation of these assertions:

"Dr. Christmas recently published a work on this subject, to which Professor Letulle has contributed a preface, a notice of the publication appearing in the Bulletin of *Le Progrès Médical* for October 13th. Information was obtained from prisoners exchanged in Switzerland as no longer able to make war. The author is a neutral Danish physician who was asked to carry on the investigation by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his work was done in Switzerland. By a strange coincidence he died suddenly on the day in which his accusing document was presented to the world. He began his undertaking with the conviction that the prevalent beliefs about the ill-treatment of the men were gross exaggerations. Imbued with the traditions of German university life, such conduct had been to him simply inconceivable. He was unable to grasp the idea that German sanitarians, with their *esprit de corps*, could have fled from the typhus infested prison camps. It was even said that they had made no effort to rid the prisoners and their belongings of vermin, and thus prevent the epidemics which occurred in at least three camps. Could they have contrived this spread of disease? They at least made no effort to isolate the Russians who had already suffered from it. The result was thousands of deaths among the prisoners and the flight of German doctors. Some one saw to it that nourishment was not withheld—it was passed in through wickets; but all credit for medical service was due to the French and Russian physician prisoners. The German medical staff eventually realized that the principles of humanity had been violated, and the omission was in part repaired. To-day, in the prison camps, all prisoners are disinfected on admission, and there have been no epidemics of typhus for more than two years. The breakdown in the German sanitary service occurred in January, 1915, and can absolutely not be excused on account of unsettled conditions.

"The other subject for discussion cited in the review is tuberculosis. The prisoners, in a condition which attracted infection, and with numerous infections already established, received no more hygienic ministrations than the first group. There were no cuspidors, no separate laundries, no isolation for the already infected. Many men already in the incipient stages were made to work in the mines and factories. In Letulle's opinion it was only too evident that when peace came thousands on thousands of germ carriers would be sent home to France with the attest that they had been "able to work". If such mass infection was