

The sublime ignorance of the facts in regard to the origin of the war shown in the extraordinary manifesto issued towards the end of last year by the German intellectuals, including such names as the late Prof. Ehrlich, some of the assertions in which are in direct opposition to the statements contained in the German White Book, cannot fail to discredit German science. Can we ever trust the German scientists again?

Soon after the beginning of the war we began to realize how dependent we were upon Germany for the supply of certain drugs, in the manufacture of which she had acquired a monopoly. These included a large number of extremely valuable drugs, which had displaced many of the older remedies, such as the whole range of synthetic drugs, analgesics, antipyretics, alkaloids, salicylates and potash salts. The fact that Germany possessed a monopoly in the manufacture of aniline dyes has caused a very considerable inconvenience. The manufacture of many of these products has originated in Britain, but had afterwards been applied by German manufacturers. One of the chief difficulties in manufacturing them ourselves was that hitherto Germany had had an exclusive supply of the raw material required. There has since been considerable progress in the manufacture of the products formerly supplied by Germany, but there are still many difficulties to overcome before this industry is established on a satisfactory basis.

It is sometimes asked if war offers any compensations for the harm it undoubtedly does in hindering the advance of science? Much has already been learnt in regard to the proper treatment of septic wounds, and as to efficacy of inoculation in the prevention of the diseases which have in previous wars caused more deaths than the actual battles themselves. The vigorous efforts taken in Serbia by the British and American doctors have been so successful that typhus, relapsing fever, cholera and smallpox are now almost stamped out, and so far the health of our troops in France, in England and at home has been extraordinarily good.

At the end of the first year of the war it may be said that the value of the medical work in the Army cannot be too highly estimated, and the practical absence of epidemic disease and efficient sanitary organization has meant a gain of innumerable lives to the allied armies. The heroism of the troops in battle has been equalled by that shown in the hospitals, and the wounded have been attended with courage, assiduity and success, often under the most trying circumstances. Very warm tributes have been paid to the courage and professional efficacy of the Medical Corps by the highest military and political authorities. They all agree that the medical men have rendered most heroic services, and that their courage and devotion is beyond all praise.