were to receive rigorous punishment. In the annexe the state of things was appalling.

The sick had to be dumped down anywhere, for there was not at first a sufficient number of attendants to cope with the work. There were no beds for them; they had to lie on their shaving-filled bags. There were no bedpans or urine bottles, and the state of the patients and the floors was indescribable. There were no feeding-mugs or even small cups or bowls—nothing but the large bowl which formed part of each man's equipment. No milk, or eggs, or other invalid fare was forthcoming. It was ordained that the sick were to continue on exactly the same rations as they had been receiving—the same soup, the same black bread, the same weekly raw herring for each—a diet "tragically grotesque," says Major Davy, "for a man in the middle of an acute illness."

The doctors grappled vigorously with the situation. The number of British in the camp was relatively small, so that the sick among them formed only a small part of the British officers' care. They shared with the French doctors the care of the French and Belgian sick. It is not possible, says the report, to acquit Dr. Wenzil of responsibility for neglect of the most elementary sanitary precautions, for the unsuitable and insufficient diet provided for the patients, and for omission to supply in anything like sufficient quantity the barest medical and surgical necessities. He himself sickened shortly after the quarantine had been declared, and died of typhus in the town. Three or four days after the isolation of the camp a new medical officer appeared, but he never came inside. The doctors asked for milk and eggs for the sick, for a more plentiful supply of drugs, and for gowns and rubber gloves for themselves and the orderlies. No thing came of the requests. The new German medical officer remained only a few days, and was succeeded by a third, who came fairly often to the camp, but never entered it. He was, however, more responsive than his predecessors. Two weeks elapsed, however, before any gowns or rubber gloves were issued, and then only for a few of the doctors. To that neglect, says the report, was doubtless attributable the infection caught by so large a number of the medical officers and orderlies, and the deaths of so many of them. No milk was supplied by the German authorities, but it was procured from the town by a friendly under-officer, who received a small commission, and it was paid for by the medical officers themselves. As the result of their exertions the bare necessities were obtained from home.

Towards the end of March Dr. Kranski arrived. He devoted himself to improving the sanitation, leaving the treatment of the sick in the hands of the other officers. But he was in the hands of the commandant and could not do all that it is certain he would have wished to do. Owing to the want of dressings, an enormous number of extremely bad sores, several cases of gangrene, many large ulcers, and every form of extensive suppuration had supervened. Major Davy and Captain Brown never ceased to ask Dr. Kranski for a further supply, but he could not get it, the refusal being based on the pretext that there was not a sufficiency to be obtained in Germany.

The Committee think it impossible to find any justification or palliation for the conduct of the German administration in this matter. The epidemic lasted about four months; before it came to an end over 2,000 cases were dealt with out of about 11,000 prisoners. The mortality was approximately 15 per cent. of those attacked. The type of disease was milder than in other German camps. By the end of June the typhus had died out and the camp was looking forward with misgivings to the return of the Germans. It seems to the Committee to be one of the most painful incidents in a dismal record that the deliberate abandonment of helpless men to their fate when danger threatened was to the prisoners themselves a positive relief.

We have more than once hinted that neutral visitors to prison camps are sometimes hoodwinked by the Germans. An edifying example is given in the report. In the course of a conversation about food Dr. Ohnesorg, of the American Embassy, said he had seen several carcasses of mutton outside a kitchen. Captain Brown, who had never seen mutton in the camp, inquired into the matter, and found that the meat had been taken away after it had served its purpose of deceiving Dr. Ohnesorg, whose visit had been expected.

Of the sixteen doctors in the camp, twelve contracted the fever and two died. The work of Major Davy, Captain

Brown, and Captain Scott-Williams is spoken of in the highest terms, and these officers speak with enthusiasm of the devotion of Dr. Saint-Hilaire and their other French colleagues. Twenty-two of the orderlies were British; twenty of them caught the disease, and two died.

In conclusion, the Committee point to the startling parallel between the occurrences at Gardelegen and those at Wittenberg. They say that many similar features are to be found in the administration of the camp at Langensalza.¹ As a contrast, they refer to the Göttingen camp, where the administration was more enlightened and humane. That, however, was a bright exception. A note is appended to the report to the effect that it is understood that there have been no British prisoners at Gardelegen for some time past.

COMMENTS ON DR. ZUM BUSCH'S ACCOUNT OF "THE BRITISH TREATMENT OF INTERNED CIVILIAN ALIENS."

BY

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THE majority of the attacks made by German writers on British treatment of interned civilians bear so plainly on themselves the evidence of falsity that it is unnecessary even to contradict them; but when a writer enters the lists whom it has been our habit to regard as a scientific man, whom the *Koelnische Zeitung* lauds as "a trustworthy personality" whose *ipse dixit* "is surety for the literal truth of the facts he relates," and declares that from the facts one must realize that "German civilians interned in England are in exactly the same case as the English civilians interned at Ruhleben," one must needs examine the evidence on which he bases this conclusion. On examination it will be found that this evidence is mostly hearsay, and Dr. zum Busch, in his article in the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* of July 27th, has apparently been so eager to get at statements of ill-treatment that he has accepted any story without examination. Nay, more; when facts were wanting and statements failed, he has not hesitated to invent facts and to ginger up statements to suit the palate of his audience.

The space at my disposal is too limited to go into each and every one of Dr. zum Busch's assertions, but one or two of them placed side by side with the results of my investigations cannot fail to convince any impartial reader of the actual facts. His article comprises a general stricture of our medical treatment of interned civilians, a particular censure of our arrangements, both medical and general as well, at the Stratford camp, where he himself was interned, and a lively tirade against the attitude both of the British public and of the American Embassy towards the interned civilians and their sufferings. With reference to the last of these points the writer can only say that he himself has seen a good deal of the work of the American Embassy; that it seems to him to be most thorough and painstaking, and to show a deep concern for all the complaints of prisoners; and that the patience of the British public is wonderful when one sees the truculent and insulting demeanour of gangs of German interned civilians towards their guards and even to the ordinary passers-by when they are working on the roads. As to Stratford, Dr. zum Busch commences by telling us that the interned civilians' "living room was a former jute factory which had been shut up for several years owing to its unhygienic condition," while the owners of the factory (Messrs. Ritchie and Son) inform us that they gave up the manufacture of jute in Stratford because they found they could do it more profitably elsewhere, and that in their opinion the sanitation of the site was most satisfactory. "The floor of the sleeping room," Dr. zum Busch says, "is of stone flags, and here at every rainstorm (and how many such are there in London?) great puddles of water are collected." As a matter of personal observation I can vouch that there is not a stone flag anywhere in the floor of the sleeping room. It is of concrete and wood in alternate strips each about 6 ft. broad, so that Dr. zum

¹ For particulars as to the epidemic in this camp see *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, March 18th, 1916, p. 421, where a summary of Dr. Léonetti's account is given.

Busch's account of the great puddles of water which are collected between the stone flags must be entirely imaginative. The feeding of the interned civilians is strictly in accordance with the War Office scale, which provides:

Bread $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., meat 8 oz., tea $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or coffee 1 oz., salt $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., sugar 2 oz., pepper $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., milk (condensed) $\frac{1}{2}$ tin (1 lb.), vegetables (fresh) 8 oz., margarine 1 oz., peas, beans, or oatmeal 2 oz., fish (salt) $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (an adequate dietary). The cooking is done by some of the interned civilians who have been chefs or cooks in first class hotels or on board passenger ships, and the meals which I have seen at the many surprise visits I have paid to the Stratford camp have all been sufficient, well cooked, and appetizingly served. I have inspected the meat and fish before they were cooked both at Stratford and at other camps, and can certify that they are both of excellent quality and quite as good as, if not better than, the ration meat which is served to our troops in the field. Zum Busch's statements about "poor quality tasteless white bread, small pieces of frozen meat, and insufficient vegetable rations" are nothing more or less than mischievous lies. Such also must be the case with his "reign of terror" established by Colonel Lambert, the former camp commandant, with "his continual punishments by imprisonment with bread and water," as we find that only fifty such punishments have been inflicted since the commencement of the camp to the present time, a period of twenty-three months, during which the average daily population of the Stratford place of detention has been just under 400, and that the majority of these cases were given only twenty-four hours' detention on bread and water. Dr. zum Busch's culminating tale of the horrors of our English internment camp at Stratford is, however, that of the 16-year-old ship's boy "who had been arrested in the Suez Canal, and kept in Malta in the company of many Arabs, who had misused him and infected him with syphilis," but the sting is taken out of the story when we learn, as I did, from the boy himself, in the presence of unprejudiced witnesses, that the men who infected him were not Arabs, but elderly Germans, who were with him in a tent in Malta. Zum Busch's complaint, too, that the boy was "absolutely without treatment at Stratford for ten weeks, and that, through the neglect of ordinary precautions by the Stratford medical authorities, the remainder of the prisoners were placed in danger of infection," is rather discounted when we find from the Stratford hospital books, which are kept consecutively and so cannot be falsified, that the boy was admitted to hospital the day after his arrival at Stratford, that long before Dr. zum Busch arrived there he was undergoing both general and local treatment, and that special directions were issued shortly after his admission to hospital with regard to his segregation from the other prisoners of war in eating, sleeping, and washing.

At this point, not for want of material but for lack of space, I must leave the Stratford camp and go to Dr. zum Busch's general tirade against our methods and their results. Here zum Busch's statements are even wilder and more wanting in a foundation of fact. Thus he says that the death-rate in the camps is low because all the bad cases are "often unluckily too late shoved into hospitals where so many of them have laid down their lives." The total number of deaths, however, among the interned civilians in Great Britain, including the deaths in hospitals and even those which occurred in transit to the place of embarkation, have been 200 only, which out of 37,000, the total number of aliens who have been interned, works out to the very satisfactory figure of 5.40 per mille; while his allegations that a great number of suicides and also of brain diseases "have been the result of our internment of civilians" is similarly controverted by a review of the actual figures of the cases in question. The number of suicides which have occurred among interned civilians since the beginning has been four only, while the number of interned civilians who have had to be confined in lunatic asylums amounts to 146, or 254 sane prisoners to each lunatic, which contrasts not unfavourably with the latest figures available for lunacy in Germany, being higher than that found in some, and lower than that found in other provinces.

An examination of a few of the cases he mentions as

having been treated at the German Hospital during the time he was allowed to remain there, will show that with regard to them also Dr. zum Busch in his zeal for the cause of Prussian Kultur has placed at a discount the reputation for veracity given him by the *Koelnische Zeitung*. I will take two of these where I have been able to satisfy myself that they are undoubtedly the cases referred to, and to verify their residence in the other hospitals referred to. The first is that of a German lady whose case zum Busch uses to illustrate the general English attitude even towards German women and children. His account is as follows: "For this last reason I operated shortly before Easter on a German lady for uterine myomas who had been fully prepared and shaved in an English hospital but left it on the evening before the operation because she could no longer bear the continual irritations and insults of the other patients and even of the staff." The patient (one C.W.) was in the gynaecological ward of a large London hospital. She had been seen privately by the specialist in charge of the ward, admitted by him as his private patient, and for this reason, if for no other, was given special privileges and attention by the sisters and nurses of the ward. "The other women in the ward," so the hospital authorities tell me, "finding C.W. was lonely and out of touch with her surroundings, were very attentive to her, made her little presents from their private stores of biscuits and jam, and tried to reconcile her to her surroundings," but to no purpose. The operation proposed by the specialist was that of hysterectomy, but on the day before it was to be performed C.W. left of her own accord after she had been completely prepared and shaved, saying that she would be operated on at home. Next day (October 25th, 1915) she was admitted to the German Hospital, where Dr. zum Busch curetted her, and she was discharged on November 4th. The curetting apparently did no good, for she had to be readmitted to the German Hospital on April 21st, 1916, when the operation suggested at the first London hospital was performed, and she was again discharged on May 13th. From Dr. zum Busch's account one would think that the shaving and preparation took place shortly before Easter and not the previous autumn, and this is just an illustration of how he perverts the facts in order to make good his story, and to fill the German people with righteous indignation over the iniquities of the English "hypocrites."

Space will permit me to quote only one more instance from the writings of this "trustworthy" personality, so I will take one on which I have been able to obtain the evidence of Dr. von Osten, one of the interned civilians, who assists the medical officer of the internment camp at Douglas, Isle of Man.

Dr. zum Busch gives the following account: "Another man in reduced circumstances suffered from very serious destruction of the hard and soft palate, so that he had to be fed with the pharyngeal tube; when he came to us he had been taken sick in camp, and had remained entirely without treatment. He also was cured by us." From the German Hospital I obtained the case papers of this man. He was one M.S., and was admitted from the Douglas camp on January 15th, 1916. It is absolutely untrue that he was taken sick in Douglas and remained entirely without treatment. On the contrary, Dr. von Osten showed me the hospital books, which are kept consecutively, and could not have been falsified. These show that M.S. was admitted sick to the Douglas camp on March 10th, 1915; that he was either an out patient or an in-patient in the hospital there during the whole of his stay in Douglas; that during the last three months of his stay he was treated entirely as an in-patient; that he was fed there with the pharyngeal tube, and latterly also with rectal injections; and that he received special treatment throughout, which necessitated Dr. von Osten's constant and close attention and the obtaining of special apparatus for giving him inhalants, etc., in addition to the ordinary routine treatment of such cases. In conclusion, Dr. von Osten says: "In spite of all the efforts of von Heycke and myself, M.S. remained discontented and ungrateful; although von Heycke devoted his constant attention to him, he was never pleased; in fact, he was one of the patients whom one could never satisfy, and I was glad when Dr. Marshall at last consented to get rid of him."