

## PROMISES REPARATION.

If Error Was Made by Submarine Berlin Government Will Punish.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, delivered to Secretary of State Lansing today Germany's reply to the American request for information concerning the sinking of the British steamer Marina, with the loss of six American lives.

The German submarine commander reported that he attacked the Marina in the belief that it was a transport. The German foreign office through Count von Bernstorff asked for the information in possession of this government, in order that the exact status of the vessel might be cleared up, as its information was not complete.

Germany also, it is understood, assured the United States that if an error had been made by the submarine commander, full reparation, as well as apology, would be made immediately, without waiting for a demand by this country. It was believed also that the submarine commander would be punished if it is proved that a mistake was made by him.

The Marina's record is believed to have been clouded, and it is understood that this government is not in possession of absolute proof of its peaceable character. It was reported in London soon after the sinking of this ship that it was believed to have been previously in the British transport service.

After Count von Bernstorff, who asked for the interview with Secretary Lansing, had left the State department today, Mr. Lansing went to the white house, where he submitted the German reply to President Wilson. It was said that the president had no objection to the State department's furnishing Germany with the information sought, and it will be transmitted by Count von Bernstorff immediately to Berlin foreign office. The impression was general in administration circles that no serious crisis would arise from the Marina incident.

It was recalled that in the American note to Berlin in the Sussex case Germany was informed that a severance of diplomatic relations would result if she conducted submarine war upon merchantmen without warning. It was not believed then, however, and is not thought now, that mistakes could always be avoided, and it was intimated that proof of Germany's intention not to violate the rules of law is found in the fact that although her submarines have sunk hundreds of ships since the pledge was given, there has heretofore been no proof that the promise was broken.

## Think Germ of Scourge Found.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 1.—In the laboratories of the famous Mayo clinic here, a micro-organism has been discovered which is believed by investigators in the department of pathology to be the causative agent of infantile paralysis—the dread disease which last summer killed or crippled nearly 20,000 American babies.

With customary scientific reserve, Dr. E. C. Rosenow, who is in charge of the experiments, will not yet assert positively that the germ which he and his associates, Dr. E. B. Towne, of Boston, and Dr. G. W. Wheeler, of New York, have succeeded in isolating, is the germ of infantile paralysis, but in what he terms a preliminary note, "that has been presented to the State medical society, it is shown that experiments during the past few months all point in this direction.

If it be true that the agent of the disease has thus been found and catalogued—and there is no real doubt in the minds of the scientists acquainted with the experiments that this has been done—then half of one of the greatest battles in modern medicine already has been won. There remains, of course, the important task of developing a serum or a vaccine, or perhaps both, with which immunity may be established in human beings, but when the germ has been tagged this at once becomes possible.

It is entirely within the range of probability that before another summer comes the world may hear that infantile paralysis definitely has been relegated to the category of such diseases as diphtheria, smallpox and other readily controlled afflictions. With the memory of last summer's horror still fresh in the public mind, no more important piece of news could be presented to Americans.

Because of the high hopes which the discovery of some mistake or broken link in the present chain of scientific evidence would dash, those interested in the experiments at Rochester are especially restrained in making announcements. Nevertheless, Dr. Rosenow's report cannot but have the effect of creating intense public interest in the outcome of further experimentation with curative vaccines and serums. It is

known that a quantity of these already have been prepared and are employed upon animals at the Mayo laboratories.

What is described as a "peculiar polymorphous streptococcus" has been isolated by the men, often in large numbers, from the throat, tonsils and abscesses in the tonsils of cases of acute infantile paralysis. The same germ has been obtained from the ventricular fluid after death and the blood of a living patient, in one case. The colonies of one streptococci thus isolated after emulsion in the sterile air chamber, are in each instance described as consisting of "fine, slightly green colonies." In different culture, the germ has assumed different sizes. Apparently it thrives more on some than on others. In some cases it is so small as to be quite invisible under even the most powerful microscope and easily filterable through dense porcelain. In others it is readily discerned and in still others it has assumed a size at least two-thirds larger than that which represents its "lowest visibility," as the naval officers say.

Succeeding steps in the experimentation disclose as fascinating a chain of circumstantial evidence as anything ever devised by the creator of Sherlock Holmes. Inoculation of rabbits, dogs and monkeys with the germ taken from human beings has been followed in every case by the onset of what is called characteristic poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis. The symptoms produced in the animals are in every respect the same as those witnessed in human beings. Cultures made from dogs and rabbits dead of the disease, when injected into other dogs and rabbits, have produced instant and fatal attacks of infantile paralysis.

Indeed, there is apparently no missing link in the chain between the "fine, non-adherent slightly green" colonies or streptococci observed under the microscope and the onset of the disease in animals after it is injected either in the veins or spinal cord. Furthermore it has been noted by the investigators that young animals always were found more susceptible to the germ than older ones, just as children more frequently catch the disease than grown people.

Summing up the results of their labors the three doctors say: "We have isolated a peculiar streptococcus from throats, tonsils, abscesses in tonsils and from the central nervous system in cases of poliomyelitis. Paralysis has been produced in animals of various species by intravenous and intracerebral injection of cultures of this organism and lesions of the gray matter of the nervous system have been demonstrated. From the nervous system of these animals, the streptococcus has been isolated in pure culture, while their other tissues were sterile, it is remarkably polymorphous and appears to grow large or small according to the medium in which it is grown, even after passage through a Berkefeld filter.

"Using the organism in its large form, paralysis has been consistently produced in animals known to be insusceptible to inoculation with material from epidemic poliomyelitis as heretofore practiced. After paralysis had been produced in a series of three rabbits, the strain caused characteristic paralysis and lesions of poliomyelitis in monkeys. It appears to us that the small, filtered organism, which has generally been accepted as the cause of poliomyelitis may be the form which this streptococcus tends to take under anaerobic conditions in the central nervous system and in suitable culture mediums, while the larger and more typically streptococcal forms, which investigators have considered contaminations, may be the identical organism grown larger under suitable conditions."

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MRS. JOSIE BESSINGER,  
Admx Estate C. W. Bessinger.  
Govan, S. C., Nov. 20th, 1916. 3t.

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