

## PRISONERS—A CONTRAST

As Jane Anderson, an American writer, recalls in the London Chronicle, 1,000 typhus patients, prisoners of war at Wittenberg, were abandoned by their German guards. The supplies for the hospital were passed in on a trolley, worked by winches, that there should be no contact between the prisoners and the outside world. When she visited St. Mary's Institute, a British internment camp, where England houses 750 German subjects, she found the prisoners provided with workshops, with recreation grounds, with reading-rooms, with every facility that would promote their comfort and well-being. A maitre d'hotel, a prisoner, is in charge of their cuisine. St. Mary's Institute, she adds, is typical of all British internment camps.

What a contrast have we here between British and German methods — between British and German civilization! Yet it would be unwise to conclude that all Germany's prisoners are treated as badly as those at Wittenberg. There is evidence that at some other points Canadian and other prisoners have been shown greater consideration. It is always to be borne in mind that the Prussians are the most brutal of all the Huns. Some of the southern Germans have escaped the extreme degradation of militarism. There is, however, alarm as to the future. The Cologne Gazette, which often speaks for the Berlin Foreign Office, threatens that if Britain continues to interfere with German commerce, Germany will lessen the food allowances of the prisoners in her hands. We have the word of an American investigator that as long ago as May 1st the 3,500 British civilian prisoners at Ruhleben were already suffering from an insufficiency of food, and that the supply has now been cut to less than one-half what it should be.

If, through the fortunes of war, Germany cannot feed her prisoners of war, she should release them or send them to neutral countries, where they could be still interned without being starved. According to Lord Robert Cecil's statement in the House of Commons, the British Government may have to consider the rations of interned Germans in England unless there is an early change of method in Germany. In some quarters there is a cry for reprisals in kind, and in others a demand that all German property in Ally countries be finally confiscated. Englishmen are prone to confess that they could never hope to outdo the Huns in a contest of brutal reprisals against helpless prisoners. What course is then left? According to one suggestion "it is open to the Government of the Allies today to serve notice upon the German Government that at the end of the war, however long it may last, one of the essential terms of peace will be that an international tribunal shall be appointed to investigate all charges of cruelty inflicted upon prisoners of war, with power to sentence and punish all persons, including the highest officials in the State, who may be found responsible. It is open to the Allied Governments to give assurances to Germany that no German ship will be allowed in the harbor of an Allied State until the proceedings of that tribunal have been satisfactorily completed and due effect given to its findings."