

THE POISONED GERMAN MIND.

The doctrines of conquest, power and force, with which under the system of military autocracy at Berlin the mind of Germany has so largely been poisoned, are being comprehended more and more fully by the world at large through the collections of typical utterances of these doctrines now being set forth by leading journals in Great Britain and in the United States. The speeches of the Emperor William and of prominent figures among his Generals, Admirals, Ministers of State are being cited, together with extracts from books which have had wide circulation in Germany, such as General von Bernhardi's "Germany and the Next War," and the Pan-Germanist writings of Heinrich von Treitschke and many others, including Professor Muensterberg, of Harvard University, who is laboring strenuously to make the people of the United States regard Germany's course as justifiable.

Special attention is due to this activity of Professor Muensterberg, whom the Kaiser has spoken of as a friend, and who of recent years has been having a great deal of newspaper and magazine publicity, by reason of his work in criminal psychology and the role which he has assumed of interpreter between Germany and the people of the United States. When the war began he published a long letter in support of the contention of his friend the Emperor that it was solely a defensive war, in which Germany should have the sympathy of the United States. That letter was severely handled by the leading journals of the United States. Professor Muensterberg, however, lost no time in writing a book, "The War and America," which is to appear forthwith, and of which he has sent out some passages in advance.

He now devotes himself to eulogizing and seeking to justify wars of conquest, and lays down the doctrine that a strong and virile nation is entitled to take what it wants. This is an entirely different line from the one he took at first in defending this war as a defensive war undertaken by Germany "to prevent European culture from being overrun by Slavic and Tartar hordes." Now he justifies the war as one of conquest. In the time to come this book by Professor Muensterberg, it may well be believed, will rank as his most actual contribution to criminal psychology, in its revelation of the recrudescence of the ideas of the Goths and Vandals and Huns in the form of the Pan-Germanism of today.

Throughout all this Teutonic glorification of the doctrine that brutal and selfish might is above all else in human affairs has run the assumption that the military might of Germany is invincible and should be used ruthlessly for German aggrandizement. Like General von Bernhardi, who has written that Germany must "expand by war," and "France must be so completely crushed that she can never again come across our path," and like Heinrich von Treitschke, who wrote, "Why talk of founding colonies? Let us take Holland—then we shall have them ready-made," Muensterberg writes in his forthcoming book:

"If war were abolished the peoples which have poor land today must remain poor through the centuries, however much they may progress internally they would have no right to expand, as they would do so at the expense of their neighbors. The peoples which are on rich land could be sure to retain their possession even if they became unworthy and useless for the march of civilization. The world's progress has depended at all times upon the expansive ascendancy of the proud, strong, solid and able nations and the shrinking of those which have lost their healthy qualities and have become unfit or decadent. Why is one particular stage of this international development, the chance distribution of power today or tomorrow, more worthy of legal conservation than any previous?"

This is a totally different line of justification from that which Professor Muensterberg attempted last month when he argued that Germany was waging a defensive war, and will not be more, but less, successful in winning the sympathy of the people of the United States. Both the lines taken by the learned Professor are at one in their disclosure of a certain duplicitous-mindedness which is rather remarkable in so eminent a psychologist. It is characteristic of all the Pan-Germanists, however. They are surprised and pained that the other nations, after having had it clearly explained to them, are still unwilling to recognize that the Germans are the chosen people, whose plain duty it is to make their might prevail, might is right, so long as it is German.

might, no matter what wrongs it inflicts on humanity and civilization.