

Until this information was in the possession of Du Bosc, he had no personal knowledge of the facts. It was suggested to him early yesterday by a representative of the Associated Press, that in many quarters positive statements were being made that mines existed within Havana harbor and in the vicinity of the Maine. Under such circumstances he was asked for a direct statement bearing on this point with a view to clearing up any misapprehension that might exist.

In view of this request Senor Du Bosc set on foot an inquiry by cable. Naturally, the inquiry was distasteful to the charge and to the Spanish authorities, as they deeply resent any even implied imputation that the catastrophe to the Maine would be due to mines or other external influences. But for the purpose of giving the one essential statement of fact in the knowledge of those having the only direct information on the subject, the official statement was secured and made public by Senor Du Bosc. It is not, however, as is explained at the legation, a statement of the Spanish government, for the government has not felt called upon to repel insinuations, which from its standpoint grossly reflect upon its honor. The purpose of Senor Du Bosc was to make the statement as one of fact established from the best official advices and not to make it as a government utterance, which he regarded as unnecessary. As a statement of fact, however, it is given by Senor Du Bosc with the greatest positiveness, and from sources of Spanish information whose authority is not open to question, he says.

When seen today, Senor Du Bosc had no details to add to his statement. With emphasis he expressed his indignation that he should feel it to be his duty to repel the insinuation and statements that Havana harbor was mined, which were inspired, he said, by those anxious to stir passion and resentment between the two nations. He considered such suggestions an insult to Spain, and without deigning to answer them he submitted as a bare fact that there were no mines or submarine defenses of any character in or about Havana harbor.

When the attention of Prof. Philip Alger of the bureau of ordnance, navy department, was called to Senor Du Bosc's statement, he said he had been looking for some such expression, as it seemed the natural thing for the Spanish authorities to make such a statement in case no mines existed. From the first, he said, he had maintained the view that the explosion of the Maine was probably the result of an accident and if Senor Du Bosc's statement could be proved to be true, it would, in his opinion, render the torpedo theory untenable.

Notwithstanding the repeated explanations of Captain Sigsbee, couched in language as broad as consideration for the feelings of relatives of the deceased sailors would permit, to show that it is practically impossible to bring the remains of the victims of the explosion to the United States for interment, some of the relatives persist in their efforts to overcome his decision. Recently an application was made through the friends of Keyes, one of the victims, to the state department for permission to have his remains brought to the United States. Keyes' remains had already been interred for several days, his body being among the first to be recovered. The request was referred to Consul General Lee, who has just replied to the state department that the Spanish laws forbid the exhumation of dead bodies. This legal obstacle, in addition to the other serious objections that have been made to the removal of bodies such as the danger of bringing con-

tagion into the country, the impossibility of accurately identifying the remains and other reasons, will probably be sufficient, it is thought, to deter further applications of the kind.

Judge Advocate General Lemley has received telegram from W. F. Humphrey, president of the Boston Tow Boat company, one of the concerns engaged in the wrecking of the Maine, stating that the big tug Underwriter sailed from Boston yesterday for Havana, to join the Merritt company's boat now at that place. The Underwriter is to stop at New York on her way south and pick up the Merritt and Chapman floating derrick Chief, and later the big derrick Monarch will follow. The principal function of the latter craft, which is specially engaged at large expense, will be to undertake to lift off the turrets and big guns of the Maine, a weight beyond the capacity of the smaller derricks to handle.

No word has yet come from the court of inquiry at Havana touching the time when they will leave Havana for Key West nor, in fact, has the court been heard from in any manner since the last published report.

Athens, Feb. 26.—An unsuccessful attempt was made today to assassinate King George of Greece.

Madrid, Feb. 26.—The cabinet has considered the situation and no incident was reported as altering the "cordiality of the relations between Spain and the United States," though the ministers expressed "regret at the passion which has crept into public opinion during the present incident."

A million pesetas was voted to develop the navy.

A decree has been issued dissolving the cortes.

Salamanca, Spain, Feb. 26.—A crowd of about 3,000 workmen, accompanied by groups of women with flags paraded the streets today shouting for work and bread. Many houses were stoned and the railroad station was stormed and considerable wheat was stolen.

The authorities promised to find work for the unemployed and as this dispatch was sent they were restoring order.

Madrid, Feb. 26.—The Imparcial today warns Spain "to distrust the pacific speeches of President McKinley and Gen. Woodford at the recent banquet here," adding, "America is actively preparing for the war which is inevitable if the rebellion in Cuba is prolonged beyond May."

The Spanish government, it is said, is equipping its forces at the different arsenals and is organizing its marine and infantry.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The lessening of the number of life failures will be one of the future boons of science. The childhood society of Great Britain, founded in November, 1896, has acquired the results of a scientific inquiry into the mental and physical needs of 100,000 children, and finds itself in possession of records of 1,120 children who appear on account of defective constitution to require special care and training. It is to be hoped that means of supplying these needs will be available.

While the electric lighting and the electric transmission of power have been attracting universal attention, electricity has been transforming chemical industries so quietly as to excite little notice except from the products. In an address to the London Institution of Electrical Engineers, Mr. J. W. Swan mentioned that one-third of the world's fine copper is now produced electrically, and the present price of aluminum—which in 1855 was nearly as dear as silver, the silver being twice its present price—is entirely

due to the development of the electrolytic method of production. Caustic alkali and chlorine are made by several electrolytic processes, these being perhaps the most important of all applications of electrolysis. Electrical methods are also employed for making sodium, chlorate of potash, carborundum, calcium carbide and ozone, from which secondary products of great value are obtained. It remains to be seen how far electrical processes will supplant the older ones, but as yet we are probably only on the edge of the great field to be explored.

Erythrol tetranitrate, said to be coming into use in Europe for heart trouble, is a remedy to be handled with care. Like many other nitrogen compounds, it is known to be very unstable, and an English pharmacist was lately killed by the explosion of a small quantity that he was mixing with lactose, with the utmost caution so far as is known.

The magnetic properties of Etruscan vases, lately studied by Dr. Folgheraiter, have not only thrown light on the earth's magnetic history, but have afforded a possible key to a mystery of ancient art. Archaeologists have had three hypotheses to account for the color of these vases, some supposing that a special kind of clay was used, others that the clay was mixed with fine carbon or lampblack, and still others that the coloring matter was introduced after the vases had been formed. To account for the magnetic properties of the vases, they must have been heated to more than 420 deg. C., a temperature to or beyond which the clays experimented on still retain their plasticity. As carbon mixed with clay disappeared at 380 deg., and fragments of the old vases lost their color at that temperature, the first two hypotheses were disproved; and the third was shown to be erroneous by failure to blacken the clay in a chamber filled with carbon and heated, and the fact that when carbon was infiltrated into the pores by carbonization it did not burn away at a temperature that decolorized the vases. Dr. Folgheraiter suggests that the polished black surface gradually fading toward the interior, may have been given by soaking the baked clay in bitumen and reheating to about 300 deg.

An "aseptic ward" of the London Temperance hospital contains novel features. It is 14 by 11 feet in area and 13 feet high, being intended for only one patient at a time. The walls and ceiling are of enamelled glass with rounded angles, and the floor of marble mosaic, with angles also rounded. A plate-glass window, with outside blind, forms three-fifths of the west wall. The door is of ground glass, and the frame—the only wood about the ward—is of hard teak. No pipe or drain opens into the ward. Great care has been taken with the ventilating arrangements, and the ward is cut off from the rest of the hospital by a ventilated lobby. The bed, chair, patient's locker, etc., are of metal. Everything in the room can be washed in hot water without harm, and it is suggested that future houses will give similar protection against the entrance, growth or escape of harmful germs.

In Germany 50,000 acres are used for growing willows for basket-making, and in France willow culture is a still more important industry.

Ordinary floors are condemned by scientific men because they retain dust, in which dangerous germs are fostered and made to hold their virulence for a long time. Cement floors are safer but less agreeable to the feet. M. Capitan, a French hygienist, rec-