

## TURPINITE, DREADED DEATH-DEALING SECRET, IS A MYTH!

BY MARY BOYLE O'REILLY.

Paris.—"Turpinite, 'the world's worst explosive,' 'France's death-dealing secret,' is a myth," said His Excellency, Mons. Millerand, the French minister of war, and raised his handsome gray head to glance at the war map of La Patrie, along whose northern frontier a line of tiny tricolors blocked an invading line of small, black flags.

To see Mons. Millerand is to recognize him as a strong man in the



Alexander Millerand

Mons. Millerand.

patriotic cabinet of enemies who have forgotten all differences in their determination to save France. Over and over again at the tense times when foreign strife seemed inevitable Mons. Millerand has been recalled to the ministry of war. In the prime of life, still a poor man, always ready to fall from power for principle, he has long been an upholder of compulsory military service for Frenchmen.

His Excellency received me at the ministry at 8 o'clock in the evening.

He had reached his desk twelve hours earlier. His dinner tray, covered with simple food, still waited on a side table. Soldiers, in service-stained uniform, came and went. One submitted the latest communication from the front.

"Mon Dieu, this is awful. Think of the poor women," sighed the minister of war, and courteously handed me the paper. A grim dispatch announced the annihilation of a Prussian corps de garde—only 100 men remaining.

"Will Your Excellency be good enough to speak of turpinite, until lately France's great military secret?"

The tired minister smiled.

"Turpinite, the 'world's worst explosive,' 'France's death-dealing secret,' is a myth. Mons. Turpin, the inventor of mellinite and lyddite, did invent turpinite in 1912. He and his assistants are said to have worked under lock and key in a factory near Paris, where they assembled the parts of turpinite bombs manufactured in different workshops. This is possible.

"Many unique men are over-susceptible, prone to nurse grievances and to become suspicious. Enough. It is claimed that the death-dealing fumes generated by the explosion of a 56-pound shell paralyze certain organs of the body and cause instantaneous and painless death to every living thing within a radius of four hundred square yards.

"Whole regiments of German infantry are said to have been found petrified by this lethal gas, still standing in their trenches, dead hands grasping their rifles, glazed eyes still at the sights. Were these claims true the appalling new explosive would be the most awful engine of destruction ever known to man, a hall of hell capable of instantly exterminating the people of a city.

"Attendez. It is claimed that the