

THE
BIG GASTON
COUNTY
FAIR!
Gastonia
October 8-12

Come and see it and enjoy yourself, besides learning something about this good country of ours. And then come on down town and get a first class

DINNER

and make yourself at home at the

Armington Hotel

A Soldier always finds a hearty welcome at this hotel.

Crown W. Wilson, Mgr.

**OTTOWAY
THEATRE**

The only theatre in the city presenting the latest

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weeklies and

*Allies Official
War Review*

COME TO SEE US

DISEASE THROTTLED

DEATH RATE ONLY TWO IN A THOUSAND, REPORT SHOWS.

(Special to The Caduceus.)

Washington, D. C., Sept. 27.—“What kind of treatment are we going to get if we get sick on the other side? Or get hit?”

Questions of this nature have been voiced thousands of times in all camps during the past year. A high official of the army medical department was asked during the week by a representative of the Caduceus to answer them. The substance of his reply, though he asked not to be quoted, follows:

Ample hospital facilities, that is, beds, drugs and surgical supplies, have been provided to meet any and every emergency overseas.

Also, there is sufficient personnel, medical officers, enlisted men and members of the army nurse corps in France efficiently to run the hospital system of the American expeditionary forces.

There is a fixed and safe ratio of beds to number of men, which is being constantly maintained.

Ninety per cent of all wounds have had a primary union, which means that due to the speed of handling the wounded and the sanitary precautions, infection has had just one chance in ten of getting a foothold. This record, however, can hardly be maintained during a heavy sustained drive.

As for sickness, the overseas forces have established an almost unbelievably record. By comparing it with the sick rate of armies in most other wars, this is clearly brought out. It can safely be said that the American army in this war has been and is the healthiest in the world. Of course, there is a reason: First, disease is kept away from it by every sanitary precaution and, second, what does creep through these lines of defense is fought off by strongly developed bodily resistance.

If figures are needed to make the foregoing more convincing, a very recent statement from the surgeon general's office points out that for the two months ended August 31, the combined reports of the American expeditionary forces and all troops stationed in the United States shows an annual death rate from disease of 2.18 per thousand—a fraction more than two men per thousand per year. In comparison with this, the annual death rate for disease of men of military age in civil life is 6.7 per thousand.

Moreover, the combined reports show that generally the health of the soldiers overseas is better than that of the men in training in this country. This is due for the most part to the fact that only men in the best physical condition are being sent to France.

Here are some figures of American losses from disease during past wars. These complete the story. During the Mexican war, the annual death rate was 100 per 1,000. During the Civil war, 1862, it was 40 per 1,000 and in

1863, it jumped to 60 per thousand. In the Spanish-American war, it was 25 per 1,000. Today it is a little more than two per thousand.

The chief of the medical officers, who have made this record possible, is Surgeon General William Crawford Gorgas, one of the greatest medical organizers in the world's history, and a sanitary expert second to none. The country has felt safe with him in the role of the army's family doctor.

Only recently he arrived in France, having accompanied Secretary of War Baker there, and is now inspecting our efficient and adequate medical organization overseas.

It was this same General Gorgas who helped build the Panama canal by ridding the Zone of yellow fever; also the same man who cleaned up Havana when the Americans occupied that city; and none other than the one England borrowed from our war department in order to make the mining districts of Africa healthy spots in which to work. He has been called an unconquered warrior, because disease and epidemics have invariably broken down before his attack.

To keep a capable, keenly alive, army medical department overseas, there is an easily functioning and efficient medical organization in this country. There is a complete base hospital in each of the large camps and cantonments and a chain of general hospitals stretching from coast to coast. The men in training, second in importance only to those on the firing line, are being kept healthy.

There is no better means of grasping the present scope of the medical department than by comparing its organization when war came and today. A year and a half ago, the department numbered about 452 regular medical officers, 900 nurses and 7,000 hospital corps men. At the present time, more than 25,000 doctors are in uniform, many thousands in France and England and the remainder in this country. The enlisted personnel of the department now is in the neighborhood of 200,000 and there are more than 16,000 trained nurses in active service as members of the army nurse corps.

It is this force of men and women whose duty it is to keep the army well and at the top point of fighting efficiency. And they are doing their duty. From the stretcher-bearer between the lines bringing help to a wounded Yank, all the way to the ward master in a hospital back home, outlines the job of the enlisted man of the department. It is the task of the medical officers to direct this army of health.

From the time a man is hit or taken sick, until he is returned to his unit as an effective ready to fight and work, or until he is sent home to be re-educated for future usefulness and self-support, he is wholly under the protecting wing of the army medical department.

Those wings are today stretching from the St. Mihiel line in France to our Pacific seaboard and they are capable of supporting every load.