

Health Notes

CONQUERING TYPHOID.

Typhoid fever is losing its terror. Within recent years a means of anti-typhoid vaccination has been discovered, and some remarkable results are being obtained. While the immunity against typhoid after being vaccinated is probably not quite so good and does not last quite so long as in the case of small-pox, yet it is a most excellent means of protection. Here are some figures that show the value of anti-typhoid vaccination in the army. Out of a total of 55,680 soldiers in the United States Army, in 1911, only 3,000 were unvaccinated. During that year a total of forty-five cases of typhoid were reported. Of these forty-five cases, forty-three cases were among the 3,000 unvaccinated and only two cases occurred among the 52,680 vaccinated soldiers.

During the recent mobilization of our troops on the Mexican border, only two cases of typhoid occurred in the army of 20,000 men. This record stands in striking contrast with the record of 2,693 cases of typhoid and 248 deaths, in 1898, when 10,000 troops were encamped at Jacksonville, Florida. At that time we knew nothing about anti-typhoid vaccination. Such is the progress of sanitary science and preventive medicine.

After thus abolishing many of the terrors of war, let us hope that some day soon we shall have advanced sufficiently far that we will abolish war itself. That looks like one of the next steps.

FREE INSURANCE AGAINST TYPHOID.

The State of Minnesota is somewhat of a leader. We have to doff our hats to her as being the first State in the Union to abolish so-called quarantine for smallpox. That plan proved a marked success, and North Carolina soon followed suit, with equal success. Now a number of other States are falling in line. But Minnesota is now setting a new pace. The last report from her was to the effect that the State Board of Health is preparing to furnish free typhoid prophylactic, for the use of all physicians throughout the State who will agree to keep statistical records of its use, and report the same to the Board. This is a form of insurance against one of the most deadly and most dreaded diseases which medical science has to combat. Since the army records have shown so conclusively the value of anti-typhoid vaccination, there is no reason why it should not be of almost equal value in many other cases, particularly in the case of epidemics or unusual exposure to the disease. We shall watch the results in Minnesota with interest. If the experiment reduces the typhoid fever death-rate, or checks threatening epidemics of typhoid, we can't adopt a similar plan too quickly.

Rather strange, is it not, that our State and National governments will spend so much for hog cholera serums to protect our hogs, and so little for diphtheria antitoxin to protect our children? The time will doubtless come when we will protect our children from diphtheria as well, if not better, than we do our hogs from hog cholera, and then we shall also begin to realize the importance of public provision for anti-rabic treatment for bites from mad dogs, anti-typhoid vaccination, as community or public protection, as well as private personal protection, as well as private personal protection.

RED CROSS SEALS.

The final reports of the sale of Red Cross Seals show a total of 396,053 sold in the State of North Carolina during the month of December. The receipts from the sale amounts to \$5,960.53. Of this amount, \$3,364 will be spent in various cities that sold the seals for tuberculosis work.

Wilmington leads in the largest number of seals sold, having sold 90,500 seals; Asheville comes next with 52,535, and Charlotte third with 50,099. Reidsville made a remarkable per capita record, selling 24,010, or about five to each inhabitant. Winston-Salem sold 21,177, Raleigh 16,000, Concord 10,309. Many of the smaller cities and towns did remarkably well also.

L. B. Myers, of Charlotte, who is State Agent for the Red Cross Seals in North Carolina, goes to Washington the 28th of February to meet the State agents from the entire United States. He will report the success of the work in North Carolina and study the best methods of conducting the sale another year.

Organized charity is to be a feature of the State Conference of Social Workers at Raleigh February 11 and 12. A special conference of charity workers is called for 6:00 p. m., February 11th, to meet in the parlor of the Yarborough Hotel.

Associated Charities of similar societies are known to exist in Wilmington, Charlotte, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Wilson, Greensboro, Durham, Statesville, Reidsville, Morganton, Goldsboro, Rocky Mount, Raleigh, and Lenoir. It is probable that there are other cities that are doing organized and constructive charity work, and all are expected to have representative at Raleigh.

SLUMS IN THE COUNTRY.

The slums are not all in the big cities. We have slums and slum conditions in every North Carolina town. In fact, we don't even have to go to town to find slums and many of the slum conditions we read about in our great cities. Who has not seen the house in the country with window space at a premium? This is particularly true in the mountain regions. The writer has visited mountain homes that had but one small window, not over thirty inches square, to a room. Over-crowding in these rooms is frequently as bad as in the city slums. When cold weather comes these people "hole up" much like certain animals. A wood supply is laid in, but as the wood becomes scarce and the wood chopper is not over ambitious, they economize heat and space and have fire only in the cook stove. Windows and unnecessary doors are nailed shut, and sometimes they even eat, sleep and spend the winter in one or two rooms. The faces of these people, particularly the children, remind one of the faces seen in the worst tenement houses in large cities. The complete outdoor life of the summer is barely able to combat the lack of fresh air during the winter months.

Sick people are an expense to the State, whether the burden be borne by the State or by individuals, for the wealth of a State is but the aggregate wealth of its people, and any State that will not assume the duty of caring for the public health will fail in its competition with other States.

CORRECTION.

For some unaccountable cause the name of President J. A. Nicholson was omitted from the list of officers of Vaughn Local, No. 1774, which appeared in this paper February 6.

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