that there is small probability of error in determining either condition.

In a comparative study of the progress of cancer of the cervix and cancer of the breast we find, in one respect, very close analogy, as, for instance, in some cases of cancer of the breast when the tumor is extremely small and movable, and probably of very recent origin, there will be very apparent extension of the infection along the lymphatics into the axilla and below the clavicle, while in other cases the growth in the breast has existed for a long time without any appreciable extension of the disease. That is, the condition of the breast itself really gives no certain indication of the extension of the infection that may have occurred beyond it. In cancer of the cervix the same uncertainty as to the involvement of lymphatic and cellular tissue exists. In two of the cases in which I have reported extension of the disease outside of the cervix, there was simply a small ulcer on the os surrounded by hardened tissue, the whole infected surface apparently not one-half inch in diameter. Still, in these cases cellular tissue was involved under the uterine artery and well out upon the ureter, while in other cases the cervix was extensively diseased and broken down, but not attended with any involvement of the tissues beyond the uterus itself.

While in cancer of the breast it is of no great importance to estimate before the operation the extent to which the lymphatic glands are involved, because we would remove all the axillary glands in any event, in cancer of the cervix it would be of great advantage to determine whether tissue outside of the uterus itself were involved, especially if we were ever tempted to do vaginal hysterectomy; but, unfortunately, the existence or non existence of infected glands beyond the uterus cannot be determined before the operation, unless extensively involved. Therefore, as I believe, the only operation justifiable in cancer of the cervix is abdominal hysterectomy.

CONCERNING LAY SUGGESTIONS ON MEDICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS.

BY EDWARD L. MUNSON, M.A., M.D.,

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THE outbreak of the war with Spain was marked by a large increase in the general correspondence of the office of the Surgeon-General of the Army, especially with regard to that part relating to the medicinal treatment of disease. The subject matter embodied in these latter communications has been of all degrees of dissimilarity, impracticability and absurdity; while the correspondents were residents of various foreign countries as well as nearly every section of the United States. The letters received were largely with reference to the diseases especially prevalent in the army at various periods, and in the course of a few months this office received, answered and filed no less than 626 communications, of which 186 related to yellow fever, 77 were in regard to typhoid fever, 87 were on the subject of malaria, 58 were concerning dysentery, and the remainder were scattered among various other affections. Practically all these letters suggested methods of treatment for disease (the adoption of which the writers frequently desired should be made compulsory on army surgeons), or else stated the

possession by the writers of secret methods or formulae, guaranteed infallible for one or many affections, which they were willing to impart to the Government for a consideration; the consideration varying from a railroad pass to the lump sum of \$50,000, and from an appointment as nurse or physician to a life pension. The polite refusal of the surgeon-general to purchase their stock in trade was sometimes followed by charges and complaints to the President of the United States, or to the Secretary of War, that the Medical Department was criminally at fault in not giving the benefit of their superior knowledge or marvellous therapeutic discoveries to the suffering soldiers. This class almost invariably spelt fever "feaver" and understood no pathological difference between malaria, typhoid, yellow and other fevers. They were uniformly told that the Medical Department of the Army could neither purchase nor make use of any secret methods or preparations in the treatment of disease.

Another large class of correspondents was composed of purely disinterested individuals, usually veteran soldiers of the Civil War and motherly old ladies, who were anxious only to assist the department in the alleviation of suffering. Such were always courteously thanked for their interest and suggestions, no matter how valueless or grotesque the latter might be.

Some of the correspondents were anonymous, and a few were evidently of unsound mental condition, as instanced by the maiden lady who for some weeks bombarded the office with thirty-page letters of closely written and almost illegible manuscript on most irrelevant subjects and of the greatest incoherency.

In tone the correspondence varied from the modest suggestion of some domestic simple by some patriotic old lady to the blatant offer of the Chicago quack who claimed his ability and willingness to preserve the soldiers from death and from contracting disease of any kind at the rate of ten dollars per capita.

Many of the communications received, as the appended exact copies illustrate, are curiosities from a literary as well as professional standpoint, and frequently were so incoherent and badly written as to be made out with difficulty, even by the experienced correspondence clerks of the department.

While the better element in civil life appeared to appreciate that the Medical Department of the Army was presumably in possession of adequate professional knowledge for the proper treatment of disease, a certain number of individuals, previously unknown to fame, appeared to be convinced that they, and they alone, were capable of "curing" certain affections, notably yellow fever, and this conviction was apparently stronger in direct proportion to their own illiteracy and evident lack of medical training. Many, alleging themselves to be physicians, the appearance and orthography of whose communications failed to substantiate their claim to education, insisted that their services be accepted, as experts, to treat disease, particular or general, by some infallible method or secret preparation. The egotistical impudence of some of these individuals was frequently astonishing. In the rare instances where their valuable "secrets" were divulged to the office they proved either to be well-known drugs or combinations long in the hands of the profession, or else extraordinary preparations compounded and administered in defiance of the laws of chemistry and therapeutics. It was noteworthy that, while a large number of individuals claimed to possess

remedies of almost miraculous efficiency in the cure of yellow fever, these experts were largely from the northern and northwestern parts of the United States, where yellow fever has never prevailed, and from such temperate climates as those of Germany, Austria and Russia.

From their letters one received the impression that the rapidity with which a remedy would cure yellow fever varied directly as the distance of its originator from endemically infected points. It was noteworthy that no special claims as to the cure of yellow fever emanated from southern points where the disease has from time to time prevailed. As illustrating the negative value of lay opinion in regard to yellow fever it is only necessary to name the following remedies, all of which have recently been strongly recommended to this office as positive cures for this disease:

1, Almond oil; 2, sulphur and molasses; 3, quinine; 4, "Holman's Liver Pad"; 5, artificial refrigeration of the sick room; 6, artificial heating of the sick room; 7, "Yellow Jack Bitters"; 8, wine and loaf sugar; 9, "Microbiocide"; 10, "Diffusible Tonic"; 11, "Combined Cure, Yellow Fever and Worms"; 12, "Calaya"; 13, "Salvite"; 14, "Dr. Osgood's India Cholagogue"; 15, asa-fetida and gum camphor; 16, carbolic acid; 17, washing in sulphur water; 18, mustard plasters and mustard pediluvia; 19, "Oxydonor Animator"; 20, "Dixie Chill Cure"; 21, maintained assepsis of air passages (prophylactic and curative); 22, orange leaf tea; 23, "Zymotidine"; 24, wire masks covered with absorbent cotton (prophylactic); 25, the use of powdered sulphur in shoes and clothing; 26, juice of chamomile blossoms; 27, "Labordine"; 28, hot lemonade; 29, preliminary administration of antiseptics (prophylactic); 30, "Bosso"; 31, a composition liver pad (composition secret); 32, boiled water; 33, "Wiskey and Lemmon"; 34, the burning of tar (prophylactic and curative); 35, a pinch of salt on tongue twice daily (this will cure all fevers); 36, heated molasses; 37, "Micmac Indian Remedy"; 38, turpeth mineral; 39, Sanarelli's serum; 40, "Electropoise" (guaranteed to cure 95 per cent.); 41, "Dr. Gray's Cure"; 42, lemonade and Epsom salt; 43, burning of rosin (prophylactic and curative); 44, cupping; 45, powdered charcoal; 46, bathing in alum water; 47, lemons and oranges; 48, ginger root; 49, bathing in sea with clothes on; 50, milk and tar boiled together; 51, mineral water (brand not specified); 52, "Mellon's Yellow Fever Remedy"; 53, peach leaf tea; 54, placing patient in trench and covering him with loose dirt; 55, tea made from the bark of Mesquite bush; 56, a mixture of olive oil, salt and lime juice; 57, green tea and Cognac; 58, pint of lime juice after meals; 59, "Antidotum Ultimatum"; 60, treatment of the case by a homeopathic physician; 61, "Caldwell Remedy"; 62, hot-water baths; 63, vapor of "crude oil"; 64, a diet of salt mackerel; 65, "Cooper's Embrocation"; 66, fluid extract of Eucalyptus; 67, "Amarin"; 68, "Maya Indian Cure"; 69, "Gaseo-Chemic Treatment"; 70, the intravenous injection of raw onion juice.

Many of the above remedies were recommended by a number of individuals; sulphur, in some form or other, being especially popular, and its use in the shoes being strongly urged upon this office by no less an individual than the president of the American Humane Society. Many of these alleged remedies are stated to have been handed down as heirlooms for generations, or to have been originally derived from some old sea-captain or some Jesuit priest who had vouched for their efficiency.

In regard to typhoid fever, one individual urged the employment of onion poultices to the soles of the feet as never failing to abort the disease, while another

wrote to call attention to the fact that a diet of well-browned peanuts would prevent small-pox. The office was told that the troops, while in the tropics, must be given a daily ration of Tabasco Sauce; that every light-complexioned man going to Cuba should take a daily dose of sodium phosphate; that the free use of garlic would ward off all diseases, and that the city water of Orange City, Fla., was a febrifuge in malarial fevers. It was urged to purchase "Lincoln Spring Water" for the cure of insomnia, and to require each soldier to wear a flannel bag containing camphor to avert malaria. One woman wrote to express her surprise and indignation that the troops were not provided with houses. A Doctor of Medicine called attention to his device to make each soldier breathe through his nose and so escape the inhalation of microbes. A "Doctor of the Laws of Nature" offered her services; the maker of the "Wonderful Ten Minute Pile Cure" asked the best and cheapest way of bringing his product before the public, and the inventor of a patent "Flea-catching Machine" urged that a number be purchased for the comfort of the soldiers in the tropics. Another wrote the President to request Congress to appropriate a sum for the purchase of his remedy for piles, and offers to take the Chief Magistrate into partnership for its manufacture in return for such action. A man from Michigan desired the contract for supplying slippery-elm bark; from California came a letter urging the adjutant-general to prevent malaria by the "medication of the feet" of the soldiers, and a New York chemical company wished to introduce "Liquid Killen," a parasiticide, among the troops at Chickamauga. One individual surprised the office with a box full of dirty bottles of various shapes and sizes, filled with the most unpleasant looking decoctions of domestic manufacture, which were warranted specifics for everything under the sun, one bottle "curing tisis, scroffalo, stome ache trubbles and stop that tiard feeling." Another specimen is a "Great Blood Purifier," and is stated to "Wark Merricals." The box was accompanied by the following letter:

"May 30th 1898

TO THE SERGEON-GENERAL,—Dear sir I find that these Medisons that I Send yau, have bean so useful And doing so mutch good, that I Would if yau Would per mitme, that I Would Continure finding that I have removed paims And Cureded people Who have been suffering for years but of Course I Want not conflict With the Law And Would be pleased if I could Continure."

Another wishes to introduce his preparations into the army, and sends samples of his villainous compounds. He evidently is convinced that the office has nothing better to do than to solve the riddles presented to it, so the following letter is sent by him:

"TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Sir,—I Write to Ask some informtinon, About that Box of Sample Medison that I sent in the Month of June 1898. And you told me that on account of War With Spain that it Would be uterly Imposible to Anellize, And I thought that I Would Ask you When or at what time that you thought that the Doctors Would be Able to Anellize or wheather that you had Annellized or not"

One enterprising M.D. requests that the Government obligate itself to pay him money (sum not specified) in case a thorough test of his treatment for typhoid fever proves of value, generously leaving a loophole as follows:

"After testing the treatment if it cures as claimed, then the Gov is due me the amount agreed up-on, if not she is not due me anything."

Another approaches the subject from a religious standpoint.

"Mar. 21, 1898.

DEAR BRO. MCKINLEY

Honored Sir,— Jesus says, Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name it shall be done. We know that Jesus will fulfil his promise. Now I do ask in the name of Jesus that the soldiers of the United States Army may have a medicine that is a sure cure for rheumatism & many other complaints. You will see by this circular what it has done & what it will do. I have sold it to many people & there is not one that have taken it according to directions but what speak very much in its praise. It is manufactured by the Rheumatic Cure Co., Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., Where you can get it."

A gentleman from West Virginia who desires to sell a remedy for driving away flies from the sick for the sum of \$50,000 prefaces his request by :

Gents :— Please donte take me to be a crank in regarde to below as you See I ante no college graduate—as i am ankward in my explanation—But I mean Square & Honest. Business."

From Alleghany, Pa., comes a very urgent invitation for the surgeon-general to be present at the exhibition of a new apparatus, of which the inventor says :

"It is said the germ of yellow fever is not yet known if so I will say that my instruments will reveal it if it exists in nature. If it is smaller than the smallest known microci then it will very likely prove to be one of the ever living Atoms which manufactures the poisonous substance of "gass" that produces the disease."

From the State of Maine comes the announcement of the cause of leprosy, with a modest renunciation of the honor of its discovery as follows :

"NAPLES, ME.

March 25, 1898.

ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM :

Surgeon Generals Office, U. S. A. :
Washington, D. C.

I have been directed by the Curator of the Smithsonian to introduce to your attention my recent practical discovery in physiology. My discovery is perhaps best explained by a review of first causes. If an intimate knowledge is entertained of first causes. Then their effects are better appreciated, and dealt with. The very obscurity of the first causes of "Leprosy" is perhaps the reason of the previous undiscovery of a preventive, or cure.

The discovery that I desire to call to your attention is my discovery of the first causes of "leprosy" and its cure. To be very brief :— My method is the subcutaneous injection of serum of animal blood. The patients body should enjoy the exposure to air and sunlight. The first treatment is to be followed by the adoption of the blood baths of the ancients. I may add in conclusion that the first cause of leprosy is cannibalism. I prefer its introduction — and tests — to be made by the Institution. I desire no further personal identity with the discovery nor the honor."

A physician residing on Henry Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., writes :

"BROOKLYN, N. Y. May 15th 1898.

Dear General :— In my forty years of medical experience I have met with nothing more certain than the curative effect of bean water upon punctured wounds, & in the interest of our soldiers, I feel it my duty to inform you of a remedy at once so simple, attainable, & efficient."

Then a note of advice and warning from a lady of New Bedford, Mass. :

Dear Sir :— Whoever you are, this war strikes a wild terror to my heart, and I fear that my countrymen will be tortured by the Spaniards. If I were a soldier, and could get it, I would carry morphine enough to know nothing more very soon after it became evident that I should be captured by the Spaniards, who are very cruel.

I fear Blanco's great confidence may lay in some under water plot similar to that which caused the destruction of the Maine.

"Were half the power that fills the world with terror,
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,
Given to redeem the human mind from error,
There were no need of arsenals or forts."

The office was in full accordance with the sentiments expressed in the following extract, especially the last clause :

"FT MADISON IOWA

Jan 27 1899

MR ALGER, Dear sir :

Dear sir. . . they sent all through the country for Doctors to come and see what it was and they could not tell weather it was smallpox or chickenpox they do not look any more alike than a Hog or Dog Why sir as big a fool as i am i can tell the smallpox when it first comes out and as soon as it shoes on the sirfis i can tell wether the pearson will live or die and all your aproved medisons wont change the condition if you dont bleave it . . . i will Close this by sayind after looking the the thing all over i find i was a dam fool for wighting in the first place"

A superintendent of schools suggests :

"OFFICE OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT
OF EDUCATION,
COUNTY. S. C., July 30th 1898.

HON R. A. ALGER

Seety of War,

Hon Sir, — It is painful to the people of the country & myself to see how deadly the Typhoid fever has been to our brave soldier boys, and you will pardon me to make just this suggestion in its treatment. To wit : Chop up a half dozen onions with a teaspoonful of salt, make two small sacks to fit soles of feet, and will vouch that in from two to twelve hours the fever will depart. If collapse take place then use stimulants. Dont be in a hurry to take off poultices."

A patriotic medical man offers his services to h's country in the following letter :

"COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

March 28, 1898

MAGOR WILLIAM MCKINLEY

President of the U. N. S. of america. Sir as the ought look is at Presadent it Puts me some in Remenbans of 1861 & 1865 as the Nation or our Repupliek Neaded some help and as the way things are Stiring Round i Wish to ask Wether i coodent git a Pointment as. a Doctor to some Regement or some head quarters i ame a veateran of 4 Pa Cal of 1861 & 1865 and a member of the grand army to the Repupliek of the United States i have seen in former days allso. Ex President, R. B. Hays of the 23, Ohio i lived near freemont ohio for 10 years. I ame Well a Ware of youre mind being thirly Put to task at the Presadent crices as it seems at Preasent thoe We might have War With spane. Will you Kindly Remmiber me and find a Posetion for me

Yours truly

(Signed) Dr. J. J. B.
County, Pennsylvania."

Two naturalized citizens of the United States offer their assistance to the department :

"ANACONDA, MONTANA, the 1 April 1898
HIS HIGHNESS MR. ALGER
Secretary of War

Dear Sir,—Excuse my writing to you, but I feel so much for this Country that I like to do Something too in time of war. I can make very good Salf for wounds, and other for burn, (Ointment for burns). If you allow me, I will Sent you a Sample of it. I am born in Belgium) and I no that you need good Pigeons in time of war, for your forts and for your Man of War. If you need Some, I will go to Belgium to get Some, because I no there are the best flyers in the world. Now is the time to get the best youngones. (England get his Pigeons there too)
One's more excuse If I dint Wrong.

Respectfully yours "

"ROCHESTER January the 9 99
MR ALGER, Secretary of War
Washington D. C

I leth you no that I. mak Invention of Experiment for the Yello Fiber, for the Unitat Stats Army, I. rod a letter down to Mr. Presedent McKinley he tell me, that your Business, so I. tell you that Experiment is the bust, what you can feind in the World, you no that you self that so many Solder going Dead, and get sik down Cuba and all offer the Sout. If you thak 2-3 draps from that Experiment but that in a glas with Watter and den Drinket, so you by savet from the Yello Fiber, so I wont to have you to tell the War Department about that, I. will proof that to yo and to the Unitet Stats of Amerika, If the War Department or the Government give me, some Mony so I going down to Cuba and proof that, I send you a Sample If you wanted, pleas leth me no so sun is possible for you.

If the War Department dont thak that so I give that to England or somewhere

yours Respectfully
Gurantet by E. A. B.
Rochester N. Y."

The conclusion to be drawn from this article, if any, would seem to be that Carlyle's definition of the English nation, "Thirty million people, chiefly fools," applies also, in some degree, to our own country.

Clinical Department.

A CASE OF SPORADIC CRETINISM.

BY FRANKLIN W. WHITE, M.D., BOSTON.

MY reason for reporting this case is the comparative rarity of the disease in America. It is only within the last five or ten years that the profession has learned to recognize it. Osler¹ in 1893 could find only eleven reported cases in America; in 1897 he gives a summary of sixty cases.

The patient is a girl two years of age, born in this country, of Italian parents. No hereditary taint was discovered; the father had a fistula in youth, but otherwise had been well and strong. The mother, who died of pneumonia seven months previous, had always been a vigorous, healthy woman, and had borne three perfectly healthy children, now four, six and ten years old. This girl was the product of an easy labor, and nursed by her mother for somewhat over a year, and since then fed chiefly upon bread and milk, oatmeal and potato.

Her present pathological condition is not a late development, but dates from birth, according to her father's statement. With the exception of a severe

attack of "bronchitis" six months ago she has suffered from no acute illness. She has always been a dull and backward child, and has never learned to talk, but makes curious inarticulate sounds. She is placid and stupid, practically an idiot, with sluggish and unresponsive mental faculties. She takes little interest in her surroundings, and rarely laughs. She never has learned to stand or walk, and only within a week or two has been able to sit up. Her sight and hearing are apparently good. Her appetite and digestion have always been good, but she is habitually somewhat constipated. She sleeps fairly. Her skin is always dry and cool, free from perspiration; she has been afflicted with eczema for the last six months.

Her appearance is that of a typical cretin—a short, squat figure, large head, full face, stolid and expressionless, broad flat nose, small eyes wide apart, half closed by swollen lids, double chin, wide-open mouth, with thick lips and thick protruding tongue, short, thick neck, big, pendulous belly, and pallid, dry, boggy skin. The anterior fontanelle is open and two inches wide; the posterior fontanelle is closed; the frontal eminences are prominent; there is no cranio-tabes. The hair is dry, light reddish brown, coarse and straight. The eyes are brown, the iris normal. Three incisor teeth are present in the upper jaw, two incisors were just appearing in the lower jaw at the time of my first visit, and the gum was somewhat inflamed about them. The teeth are short, rough and irregular. The palate is normal; the voice is harsh and rough.

The skin is everywhere thick and boggy, and does not pit. It is markedly pale, except upon the hands and feet, where it is always bluish and especially cold. No supraclavicular pads were found. No thyroid gland was felt, but there was no notable thyroid depression. No rosary was present. Heart and lungs were normal. There is a small umbilical ring, which will hardly admit the end of the finger, but no hernia. The liver is normal in size, the area of splenic dullness increased, but the spleen is not palpable. Muscular weakness is shown by a marked lordosis, and imperfect ossification by the open fontanelle, the stunted growth of arms and legs, and the stumpy fingers and toes. There are no curvatures or anomalies of the limbs, and no enlargement of the epiphyses. There are no paralyzes or pseudo-paralyzes or sensory disturbances, and the patella and pupillary reflexes are normal. The cervical, axillary and inguinal glands are easily felt, but not especially enlarged. The genitalia are normal. The temperature is low, namely, 97.4° F. by rectum. The weight is twenty-four pounds ten ounces.

The urine was normal in color, acid, specific gravity 1.018, and contained the slightest possible trace of albumin. The sediment showed nothing abnormal. Dr. R. H. Fitz² had recently called attention to the occasional presence of albumose in the urine in myxedema. It was not present in our case.

The blood examination was as follows: Red corpuscles, 4,392,000; white corpuscles, 4,500; hemoglobin, 75 per cent. A differential count of the white corpuscles gave:

Polynuclear leucocytes	58 per cent.
Large mononuclear	3 "
Lymphocytes	36 "
Eosinophiles	5 "

No abnormal red corpuscles were seen.

¹ Osler: American Journal Medical Sciences, 1897, cxiv, p. 377.

² R. H. Fitz: American Journal Medical Sciences, 1898, cxvi, p. 36.