knowledge, the physicians, nurses and medical attendants left their posts while the epidemic was at its height only long enough to secure essential rest and it was necessary to detail nearly 200 men from the Air Service to assist the regular hospital personnel.

In view of the seriousness of the charges made by Lieutenant Compere, the matter was investigated by the representative of the Inspector General's Department of the Army located at the Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va. The inspector was Col. J. T. Nance, a retired officer of long experience and high attainments. The investigation covered the period from Oct. 28, 1918, to Nov. 12, 1918, and was thorough. Colonel Nance's conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

"(a) That Lieutenant Compere's allegation that his first telegram was ignored is not sustained by the evidence.

"(b) That his allegation that reply to the telegram was delayed is sustained by the evidence, but that a large part of this delay was incident to poor telegraphic service available and that the remainder of the delay was incident to conditions existing during the epidemic of influenza and pneumonia.

"(c) That his allegation that the reply was vague and indefinite when he had requested information as to the exact condition of his brother is sustained by the evidence.

"(d) That his complaint that Private Wood was being allowed to die without attention, 'that absolutely nothing was done for this dying soldier from 8:30 A. M. until after 3:00 P. M.' is not sustained by the evidence.

"(e) That the complaint that Major Butler was very insulting and disrespectful toward First Lieutenant D. E. Compere is sustained, in a measure, by the evidence. It is remarked in this connection that there were extenuating circumstances; that Major Butler had many cares and responsibilities, and that Lieutenant Compere's presumption and manner were irritating.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

"(a) That Major Benjamin J. Butler, M. C., be instructed to comply in future with Army Regulations No. 824.¹

"(b) That no other action be taken in his case as far as Major Butler is concerned.

"(c) That disciplinary action be taken in the case of First Lieutenant Dolphus E. Compere, M. C., for making the false statement contained in his complaint that 'absolutely nothing was done for this dying soldier from 8:30 A. M. until after 3:00 P. M.'"

The recommendations of Colonel Nance were concurred in by the Commanding General of the Port of Embarkation, Brig. Gen. H. B. Ferguson, by the Surgeon General, and by the Inspector General, but in view of the fact that Lieutenant Compere had been honorably discharged from the service on Dec. 14, 1918, prior to the receipt of Colonel Nance's report in the office of the Inspector General, it was not practicable to take any disciplinary action in this case, and the Inspector General recommended that notation of the facts disclosed by the investigation be made on the efficiency record of Lieutenant Compere and that no further action be taken. This notation on the efficiency record was made.

About December 15, after his discharge from the service, Dr. Compere appeared in my office and behaved in a very objectionable and discourteous manner. Since that date several communications from him have been received by various officials of the War Department, in which he has made many allegations, more or less exaggerated and incorrect, particularly his frequent assertion that the investigation at Camp Morrison was in the nature of a "white-wash" and was made by an inspector of the Medical Department of the Army, whereas this inspection was made by an officer of the Inspector General's Department, which is the final authority in the military service designated by law to investigate facts in regard to complaints and misconduct.

The foregoing statements are made from no desire to enter into further controversy in regard to the matters in question, but merely to place before the Fellows and members of the

1. Paragraph 824, Army Regulations, has to do with the rules which govern the furnishing of information, based on military records, which might be used in establishing a claim against the government. This paragraph further provides that information concerning sick and wounded officers and enlisted men will be freely conveyed to allay the anxiety of friends.

American Medical Association a clear and unbiased statement of the facts leading up to the publication of "Frowns and Smiles."

M. W. IRELAND, M.D., Washington, D. C.
Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

CONDITIONS IN VIENNA

To the Editor:—You may be interested in the enclosed excerpt from a letter written me by Lieutenant-Colonel Leach, who has been long connected with Belgian relief, the American army, and the American relief administration.

ROY LYMAN WILBUR, Stanford University, Calif.
President, Leland Stanford Junior University.

I have just been making a survey of conditions among the medical profession here in Vienna with Dr. von Pirquet. There are about 4,500 medical men, and at least 90 per cent. of them are working on half rations, and many are actually on the point of starvation. I had a talk with Prof. Eiselsberg yesterday, who is the leading surgeon of Vienna. In the last year he has lost 20 pounds in weight through insufficient nourishment. He has plenty of Austrian money, but cannot buy from the farmers as they will accept nothing but foreign money of recognized value or will barter for wearing apparel. I was told today in a Vienna shoe store of a peasant who came in and was advised not to spend his money for expensive shoes when he could wear sandals. These same shoes cost 5 kronen before the war. He replied that it really didn't make much difference, as his father and grandfather had always figured a pair of ducks equivalent to a pair of shoes. That simply raised the market value of the ducks. To get eggs, butter or milk in the country, which is the only place they are obtainable at the present, it is necessary to go armed with shoes, silk stockings, underwear, etc. When the surplus of clothes is exhausted there is nothing in sight but starvation.

I have suggested to Professor Eiselsberg that, as president of the Vienna Medical Association, he could make a general appeal to the medical profession in the United States on behalf of our colleagues here, this appeal to be made to our New York office and through their propaganda department, a proper appeal sent to each state medical association with Professor Eiselsberg's description of conditions as they existed here among the profession. Contributions could be made in the form of the Hoover food drafts, deliveries to be made to a committee headed by Professor Eiselsberg in Vienna, who could supervise the distribution of the packages to the most urgent cases.

At present the class which seems to be suffering most from undernourishment is the aged, the death rate among this class having risen tremendously. The children, of course, are being cared for to a certain extent through our European children's fund operations; but there is no like organization in operation for the benefit of the aged.

"BLOOD TRANSFUSION APPARATUS"

To the Editor:—In regard to the blood transfusion apparatus as described by Dr. L. L. Stanley in THE JOURNAL, March 6, 1920, p. 671, this modification may be made: namely, the stopcock may be substituted for the ball valve arrangement as described.

A glass stopcock with a good sized bore may be substituted for each one of the ball valves, thus shutting off each of the two needles, at will, from the syringe. When the donor's blood is to be drawn, the stopcock leading to his needle is opened, while the one leading to the recipient's needle is closed. The syringe is filled by drawing out the plunger. The donor's stopcock is now closed and the recipient's stopcock opened, and the blood is immediately forced into the recipient's vein by pushing in the piston of the syringe. The advantages of this modification are:

1. It is a relatively simple instrument to make at home.
2. The instrument need not be held in any particular position, since gravity plays no part here.
3. It diminishes the clotting of the blood by eliminating the ball arrangement, which acts as a freely movable foreign body in the incoming and outgoing stream of blood.
4. In the ball valve plan if, because of clotting, the recipient's valve should fail to close properly, the blood filling the syringe will come from his veins as well as from his donor's, a situation which can readily be prevented by the use of the stopcock, and so assure the operator that the blood his patient is receiving is not partly his own.

BARNETT GREENHOUSE, New Haven, Conn.