

mans were reported missing every day for weeks and months *in ways that were avoidable*, those nations would thrill with alarm and steps would be taken to check or diminish the loss.

Fortunate America is not at war. No hostile ships attack our seacoast towns, no aeroplanes drop bombs on helpless cities. The business of eating, drinking, multiplying and dollar-getting proceeds undisturbed, and only an occasional funeral bell reminds us that all must die. All must die, and to unavoidable deaths it is right to be reconciled. But deaths from avoidable causes are unnecessary deaths and some one somewhere is to blame that they are allowed.

Yet here, in fortunate America, every day of the year sees an army of men, women and children die unnecessary deaths.

Every twenty-four hours fifteen hundred (1,500) fellow-citizens die from avoidable diseases. Every day, without intermission, the year round, Sundays and week days, this army of 1,500 souls is reported missing from the ways that know them, and the causes of their loss are avoidable, and capable of being eliminated or controlled. And yet our representatives and theirs, the men they and we sent to Washington, turn deaf ears to our pleading that the Government reach out a strong arm to the rescue. True the Agricultural Department conserves the crops that feed us. True the Public Health Service, though fettered to an alien department, does noble service in prominent places. But we, the people, live everywhere, in hamlets and villages, on farms, in factories, where the service cannot afford to be on guard. We are fed on doctored corn, poisoned meats, rotten goods in pails and cans. We are lied to and stolen from. Epidemics slay our children. State and municipal governments are governed by fear of the voters and give us no relief. We know what we want. We have proclaimed it aloud, in numbers and singly. *Give us a Department of Public Health and Sanitation.* Appropriate enough of our national money, ours, mark

you, to equip and run it. Place some one of our splendid sanitarians in charge and tell him to do it, and it will be done, and that speedily.

### HELP BELGIAN DOCTORS!

In the prostrate land of Belgium there are four thousand doctors and their families. Of these, fifteen hundred are in need of food as well as the other necessities of life. Even the few who may have a little money are unable to purchase food and they must go hungry, perhaps starve. They cannot minister professionally to the wants of their suffering fellow citizens, for all medicines, instruments, bandages and the like have been taken from them. Their wonderful courage counts for nothing. To those of us who can visualize this condition every pleasant meal that we might enjoy is embittered by the thought of their sufferings.

When we wrap ourselves against the inclemencies of winter a shiver of cold pierces our warmest garments as we think of their destitution, in a frozen land from which hostile hands have snatched all save the summer clothing they wore when the catastrophe burst upon them like a bolt from a clear sky; and the generous heart of many a Southern doctor has longed for an opportunity to help his prostrate brethren of the spatula and scalpel.

Well, an opportunity is presented. An organization known as the "American Committee for the Aid of Belgian Physicians," headed by Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, President of the American Medical Association, stands ready to act as a medium for the transmission of contributions. Only money is required, though supplies will be received if wrapped in secure packages, each package being surrounded with a broad yellow band. All money contributed will be placed in the hands of sub-committees, who will convert the funds into proper supplies, including food, clothing, surgical dressings, instrument and necessary drugs, which will be promptly conveyed, through the American committee, to the Belgian physicians and their families. Personal checks for

any amount will be accepted. They should be made payable to Frank F. Simpson, Treasurer, Pittsburg, Pa.

Though we think our present conditions are hard, yet they are like Paradise compared with the environments of these, our brothers, in Belgium. Let us respond promptly and liberally.

### A NEW ANTIDOTE FOR CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE POISONING.

We have received from the American Pharmaceutical Association, of Detroit, a "Reprint" with the above title, the author being "William A. Hull, Ph.B., 200 Griswold Street, Detroit, Mich."

The author, seeking for a chemical antidote for corrosive sublimate poisoning, studied the reactions of the drug with several other chemicals and compounds. Without repeating his statement of the various reactions it may be stated that his conclusions are as follows: Remove the stomach contents as thoroughly as possible. Give the whites of eggs and remove them, either by vomiting or by the pump. Then for every two (2) grains of bichloride swallowed administer the following prescription:

Potassium Iodide .....grs. VII ss (7½)  
Quinine Hydrochlorate .....grs. IV  
Water, pure .....oz. IV  
M. Ft. Sol. Sig. For one dose.

"It forms a precipitate with the mercuric chloride insoluble in dilute acids or alkali carbonates. This also should be removed and the stomach washed clean.

Though the above solution could be promptly made in any drug store, yet as minutes are precious in such cases it would be better for every drug store to have on its reagent shelves and every doctor in his laboratory a quantity of this reagent amounting to at least a pint, always made up and ready for instant use.

Meanwhile the telephone could bear the order for a heaping tablespoonful of mustard to be given in a glass of lukewarm water, and emesis provoked, during the time occupied in journeying from the office to the patient.

### AN AMERICAN SUBSTITUTE FOR THYMOL.

Reprint No. 224, from the Public Health Reports, issued by the Government Printing Office, October 2, 1914, presents for consideration by the medical profession some data on the use of oil of chenopodium, or wormseed oil, as a substitute for thymol in the treatment of hookworm.

Certain investigators quoted in the Report give the relative values of drugs generally used for the purpose as compared with the value of oil of chenopodium, as follows: "Giving eucalyptus oil a coefficient of 38, naphthol 68, and thymol 83, oil of chenopodium surpassed them all with a coefficient of 91." Their conclusions were based upon the treatment of 1,457 cases of hookworm in eight months. Oil of chenopodium, like the other vermifuges, is capable of doing harm if improperly used. Its toxic effect is in the nature of a paralyzing influence on the central nervous system, but only when the doses are excessive are any serious results noted. Though in one shape or another chenopodium is in common use for lumbricoid, or round worms, yet only 12 cases of poisoning by the oil have been recorded in fifty years.

Chenopodium grows as a common weed all over the Southern States, where it is generally known by the name, Jerusalem oak and wormseed. The seed are ripe in October and have a bitter, turpentine-like taste, which pervades the whole plant. The plant flowers in dense, leafy spikes, the seeds black, shiny, about the size of a pin's head.

A domestic remedy for round worms is made by mixing a liberal quantity of the ripe seeds with molasses candy while it is still hot and fluid. This is readily taken by children, and if eaten during the day and followed at night with a liberal dose of castor oil, it is usually effectual.

In treating hookworm the usual preparatory treatment is ordered. Then 16 drops of oil of chenopodium, with sugar, are given every two hours for three doses, to adults, followed