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THE ADVENT OF CRAW-CRAW IN THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SOUDAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

Sir,—In the note to his paper under the above heading in your February number Captain Ensor states that he discovered a diplococcus in his last case of the disease in addition to staphylococci. This is interesting in view of the close similarity noted by Sir Patrick Manson between craw-craw affections and veld sores, in connection with which latter ailment Professor Ogston, of Aberdeen, has described a diplococcus arranged in pairs like a gonococcus (Micrococcus campylopus), and Mr. Harman also found diplococcus (Micrococcus vesicans). Can these be identical with Captain Ensor's diplococcus, or are they all attenuated forms of staphylococci?

I am, &c.,
Nasirabad,
March 19th, 1908.

E. B. STEEL,
Major, R.A.M.C.

POISONING WITH CHROME-YELLOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

Sir,—I should like to ask if any of our officers in medical charge of cavalry, artillery or other units which use "chrome-yellow" for cleaning their yellow braid and facings, have ever noticed signs of lead poisoning from the use of this substance, which is simply powdered chromate of lead?

This chrome-yellow is, or used to be, mixed with water, freely applied to the braid to be cleaned, allowed to dry, and then the surplus removed by vigorous brushing; and in a Hussar regiment, of which I was in medical charge some years ago, I had several cases of what I took to be mild lead poisoning, which I attributed to the introduction into the system of lead in this form, either from the men eating their bread after using the "chrome-yellow" without washing their hands, or inhaling the dust while brushing their clothes.

I have never met any officer of the Corps who has corroborated my impressions on this matter; but I remember being told that frequently the barrack-rooms of the particular regiment I refer to were filled with a regular yellow fog from this chrome dust. That lead poisoning may be caused by inhaling powdered compounds of lead I had abundant evidence of when in medical charge of Woolwich Arsenal, where some of our worst cases of plumbism were seen among men engaged in removing
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the red paint from canisters in which old ammunition had been returned from abroad.

It might be interesting and useful to know the experience of officers of our Corps in this matter.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast,
April 23rd, 1908.

J. R. DODD,
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.

SYPHILIS IN THE ARMY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

Sir,—I would feel obliged by your kindly inserting my reply to a letter, on p. 568 of the last number of the Corps Journal, from Colonel F. J. Lambkin, R.A.M.C.

I am at a loss to understand Colonel Lambkin’s letter. In the Second Report of the Advisory Board on the "Treatment of Venereal Diseases in the Army," p. 56, a definite question was asked by that Board, namely, Question VIII. : "What advantages may be expected from treatment by other methods than by the use of mercury and the iodides? Colonel Lambkin, on p. 56, last two lines of the above Report, gave the following answer: "No advantages may be expected from other modes of treatment without mercury." He did not qualify his answer in the least.

On p. 52, lines 3 and 4, of my book "Syphilis in the Army" (John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, 1907), I wrote: "I do not concur in the opinion expressed by Colonel Lambkin that no advantage may be expected from other modes of treatment without mercury." The statement in my book, therefore, is absolutely correct, and I did not attribute to Colonel Lambkin, as stated in his letter, "an opinion which he never held."

Woolwich,
May 14th, 1908.

H. C. FRENCH,
Major, R.A.M.C.