sun-dried bricks set in mud or of old bricks, such as may with a little trouble be collected about cantonments, and set in mud or mortar. A hole 4 inches square is left over the centre of each trench to allow of ash being raked down and the grating cleaned occasionally, another hole being left in each side wall 1 foot higher up to increase draught.

![Figure 2](image1)

**FIG. 2.**

**FIG. 3.—End view of grating.**

Just before the rains the walls were plastered over with a mixture of cow dung and clay, the whole was then given a good coating of tar; with this preparation the hospital destructor went through the rains without damage. The cost of this destructor is trifling, the seven pieces of iron cost about 3 rupees, and with a little trouble the other material can be picked up about cantonments; the sweeper can build the walls.

The reduction in cartage by this simple destructor is very great, formerly in this hospital three cart-loads of rubbish were taken away daily, now one cart-load of ash is accumulated every three days. If these destructors were generally adopted fully half the authorised establishment of rubbish carts might be dispensed with.

---

**THE PREVENTION OF INFANTILE ENTERITIS IN MALTA.**

By Major G. S. Crawford.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

The great cause of infantile mortality in Malta, is enteritis. The number of admissions and deaths from this disease during the last three years is as follows:

---

1 A paper read before Royal Army Medical Corps Officers' Monthly Meeting, Valletta, Malta, April, 1908.
Clinical and other Notes

Admissions Deaths Admissions Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Imtarfa</th>
<th>Garrison, excluding Imtarfa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the wish of our Principal Medical Officer that I should bring under your notice the steps that were taken at Imtarfa in 1906 and 1907 to lower the incidence of the disease, as this may lead to similar measures being adopted throughout the garrison, which may be followed by equally happy results.

On my arrival in Malta, in February, 1906, I was directed to take over medical charge of Imtarfa, and the Principal Medical Officer asked me to pay special attention to the married families, as the place had an unenviable reputation for sickness and high mortality amongst the children. The steps taken to remedy this condition of affairs were:

1. The insistence on a high standard of cleanliness of quarters and their surroundings. The quarters were carefully inspected once a week, particular attention being paid to the condition of the water-closets. Latrine brushes were put into every quarter, and their daily use advised. Closet-pans which were found to be coated with fecal matter were directed to be thoroughly cleaned with a weak solution of hydrochloric acid, and seats were ordered to be kept up when the closet was not in use. All the gully-traps in the vicinity of the married quarters were cleaned and flushed twice a week. The verandahs of the quarters were thoroughly scrubbed at least once a week, and accumulation of refuse, &c., in or about the quarters prohibited.

2. Protection of Food-stuffs.—Food-stuffs were covered with gauze to keep off flies and dust; small wire gauze meat safes were asked for, and in time were supplied, one to each quarter.

3. Advice to Mothers.—Mothers were advised as to suitable clothing and food for children, also of the necessity for reporting cases of sickness early, &c., as opportunity offered.

4. Regulation of Milk Supply.—Tinned milk only was used, and arrangements were made with the commanding officers concerned to keep both large and small tins for sale at the grocery bar. A particular brand was recommended, the large tins of which cost 5d. and the small ones 2½d.; contractors are very fond of charging 3d. for the small tins, which makes mothers buy large tins, and if the contents are not all used in one day they are likely to become sour. These small tins can be bought locally for 2½d., and contractors are forbidden to charge more than market prices for any article on sale in the grocery bar, so there is no reason why mothers should not be able to always get these tins at 2½d. from the grocery bar. It is one of those apparently trivial points into which it is important to enquire occasionally. Mothers are directed to open the tins by making two small holes in the lid, and to keep the tins in a vessel...
Clinical and other Notes

containing cold water with the lids covered with gauze when not in use. Some mothers prefer bottled milk, of which there are several brands. The objection to these bottles is that they are too large for use in one day, and if kept longer the milk is likely to turn sour. Very little difficulty was experienced in inducing mothers to give up goats' milk. The only woman who persisted in using goats' milk, after being advised not to do so, and who was found to be getting it surreptitiously after it was forbidden in barracks, was, I am sorry to say, a Maltese woman, married to a non-commissioned officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

(5) Isolation of cases and disinfection of stools, soiled linen, clothes, &c.

Every case of enteritis was treated as an infectious disease. No other families were permitted to visit the house during the illness. Discharges were carefully disinfected, and all soiled clothing, napkins, &c., soaked in 5 per cent. izal solution before being washed. Mothers were instructed to wash their hands in izal solution after handling soiled clothes, cleaning the baby, &c.

The causes which propagate enteritis are generally held to be high atmospheric temperature, filth, insanitary surroundings, and improper feeding by the mother. Flies are also considered to play a large part in the spread of the disease. I am inclined to think that direct infection, that is, the spread of the disease from case to case, with or without the intervention of food, is the most common cause of the spread of the disease; and the fact that children fed on the breast alone get the disease, seems to me to prove that direct infection is, at all events, one of the causes of the spread of the disease. The prevention of enteritis is most important, as the disease, if recovered from, leaves a child very weak and unable to resist other diseases which it may contract, and in this way the mortality amongst children from all causes will be lowered. The following figures will bear me out in this contention.

Deaths amongst Children from all Causes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Intarfa</th>
<th>Garrison excluding Intarfa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the strength of the garrison was reduced in 1906, the number of women and children at Intarfa has remained practically the same, for the following reasons. In 1906 the families belonging to the Sussex Regiment stationed in Crete were kept at Intarfa, and in 1907 the married quarters at Intarfa were kept filled up by families sent there, on the recommendation of the Principal Medical Officer, for change of air. It cannot be said, therefore, that the decrease of disease amongst the children was due to fewer children being there.