A CASE OF ENTERIC FEVER TREATED BY VACCINATION.

By Major C. E. Pollock.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

The patient, an officer, aged 47, had suffered from three attacks of acute inflammation of the connective tissue of the left leg, which were diagnosed as Peliosus rheumatica, during the previous fifteen months.

On April 23rd, 1909, he felt particularly well. On April 24th, while at work in his office he was suddenly seized with a rigor and felt extremely ill; he drove home and went to bed where he remained, but did not report sick till April 26th.

His condition then was as follows:—Temperature 104, tongue moist and slightly furred, skin hot and dry, bowels acting naturally and rather freely; he also complained of severe headache. On April 27th, a sample of blood was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Birt; this failed to give any reaction with Bacillus typhosus, B. paratyphosus A or B, or with Micrococcus melitensis.

On April 29th, Lieutenant-Colonel Birt drew off 6 c.c. of the patient's blood; this yielded a pure culture of B. typhosus, from which the vaccine with which the patient was subsequently treated was prepared.

There was practically no change in his symptoms till May 1st, when slight enlargement of the spleen was noted, and his tongue became dry and brown. On May 2nd, he was transferred to the military hospital. His symptoms were considerably aggravated by the journey, and on arrival his condition appeared to be grave. The same afternoon he was given an injection of the vaccine containing 100 million B. typhosus.

On May 3rd, the stools were blood-stained, and the patient was very drowsy. The vaccine injection was repeated. During the following two days his condition improved considerably, and the vaccine was repeated each day.

On May 7th, patient passed about 5 oz. of bright blood in the morning, and a condition of mild collapse supervened which, however, passed off again during the day. The vaccine was repeated. May 8th, patient very drowsy. May 9th, patient slightly delirious, and the skin of his back was just beginning to break. The vaccine was given on each of these days as also on the 10th, when the supply failed for two days, but subsequently three more doses were given.

On May 10th, there was a great improvement in his condition, and from then till the 22nd the disease continued to run a mild course. On this date an acute attack of parotitis supervened, and lasted for five days. The subsequent course of the disease was uneventful, convalescence being slow but steady.

The case is interesting on account of the sudden onset, the gravity of the attack in a man of his age, and the steady improvement which set in soon after the vaccine treatment was commenced. When first seen in the military hospital the prognosis appeared to be extremely unfavourable.