A NOTE OF THREE CASES OF ENTERIC FEVER INOCULATED DURING THE INCUBATION PERIOD.

By CAPTAIN W. P. MACARTHUR.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

Cases of enteric fever which happen to have been inoculated prophylactically during the incubation stage of the disease are of the greatest interest from their bearing on the prophylactic inoculation and the vaccine therapy of typhoid fever. There are two such cases recorded in the "Report of the Anti-typhoid Committee," and I give below notes on three similar cases which have come within my experience. In each of these the circumstances were the same—a request from a civil practitioner to make a blood-culture in a case of possible enteric, the culture proving positive. I treated the patient with a vaccine in consultation with the family doctor, and also inoculated the contacts. In three such instances one of the contacts shortly afterwards showed symptoms of the disease, when the procedure was the same as in the original case.

Case I.—A French boy, aged 12. Two of his brothers were attacked with enteric, the second of whom showed his first symptoms on January 10, 1913. On this day the remainder of the family received their first inoculation, followed by the second dose on January 19. On January 20 and 21 the boy in question showed symptoms resembling those which usually follow anti-typhoid inoculation, but as these had not abated on January 23 a blood-culture was made, and Bacillus typhosus isolated. Careful inquiry left no doubt that the boy received his second inoculation on the first day of the disease. The attack ran an extremely
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mild course, the morning temperature being normal on the ninth day. At the height of the fever the patient was prevented with great difficulty from indulging in violent romps with one of his convalescent brothers who shared the same sick-room. During convalescence he had a rise of temperature lasting for about two days; this appeared to be due to some gastric disturbance following his first solid food. Otherwise convalescence was uneventful.

Case III.—A French girl, aged 9. This child received her first inoculation on January 2, 1914. On the morning of January 8 she complained of a headache, and her temperature was found to be 99.6°F. She was given an injection of her brother's vaccine—she was a contact of her brother's—and a blood-culture was made with a positive result. For the first day or two the patient complained of a slight headache, and of "feeling tired"; after the third day there were no symptoms of any kind (other than the pyrexia), and she clamoured for food and was kept in bed with difficulty. Convalescence was uneventful.

Case III.—A Frenchman, aged 45. He received his first inoculation on January 5, 1914, on which day he was in his usual health. The symptoms following his inoculation—they were of the usual degree of
severity—make the date of onset difficult to fix, but subsequent inquiries indicate January 9 as the first day of his disease, on which date a blood-culture was made, and B. typhosus isolated. The disease ran a longer course than in the other two cases, but the chart gives a very poor idea of the mildness of the attack. After the first few days the patient was perfectly comfortable, talked and laughed, and, as in the other two cases, there was nothing except the temperature to indicate his complaint. About the middle of the attack he remarked: "If this is typhoid fever I can't understand why we Mauritians are so frightened of it!" Convalescence was uneventful.

Vaccines would probably be used more commonly in the treatment of typhoid fever only for the fear of inducing a negative phase. Although the prophylactic dose is considerably larger than an initial curative one, there is no indication whatever of the production of any negative phase in the above cases inoculated during the incubation period. On the other hand, there appears to have been quite an opposite effect, as is witnessed by the extraordinary mildness of these attacks, for in Mauritius enteric fever tends to run a much longer course than at home.

A SHORT SUMMARY OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, GIBRALTAR, DURING THE YEARS 1912 AND 1913.

By Major R. C. Wilson.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

The total number of operations performed was 271. This number does not seem very large, but there is only the garrison of Gibraltar to draw from, with an average strength of 3,660. The number also represents all the operations that could be performed, as no cases were sent elsewhere for operative treatment. Three officers had operations performed when at home on sick leave. There seems to be an idea in the lay mind that wounds do not heal so well in a warm climate as they do at home. This, as far as Gibraltar is concerned, is wrong, as in my experience all fresh wounds heal as well here, if not better, than they do at home. All the clean operation wounds, with the exception of one case of varicocele, healed by first intention, and the stitches were removed on the eighth day.

NOTES ON SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT CASES.

Operations for Appendicitis.—Of the eleven cases four were operated on in the acute stage, and the abscesses drained in the usual manner. In one of these cases a counter opening had to be made in the flank. In one case a concretion was found in the abscess. Six of the cases operated on in the quiescent stage healed by first intention. In the