

During 1917 investigations regarding the type of meningococcus found in military cases were undertaken by the bacteriologists of the Military Hospital, Sutton-Veny. In addition to the positive cases, there were admitted, with symptoms suggesting cerebrospinal fever, 141 cases. Of these, twenty were civilian and 121 military cases. The larger number of military cases may be due to the fact that soldiers with symptoms suggesting cerebrospinal fever are at once sent to hospital. In the civilian cases, as a rule, the disease is fairly definite on admission. Mild cases of cerebrospinal fever in civilians may possibly be overlooked, and if this be so, probably the apparently higher recovery rate of the military positive cases may be attributed to this cause. The ultimate diagnosis of twenty civilian cases admitted as (?) cerebrospinal fever and found not to be cases of the disease was as follows: Influenza, 5; pneumonia, 7; bronchitis, 1; gastro-enteritis, 1; hysteria, 1; tubercular meningitis, 2; tonsillitis, 1; cerebral tumour, 1; poliomyelitis, 1.

In all cases, excepting the two cases of tubercular meningitis, the cerebrospinal fluid was clear, and nothing was found on examination. The final diagnosis of 121 military cases admitted as (?) cerebrospinal fever in which the original diagnosis was not confirmed were as follows: Influenza, 40; sunstroke, 3; concussion of brain and spine, 4; dental caries, 1; dilated heart, 1; epilepsy, 3; pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, 13; scarlet fever, 4; tonsillitis, 5; otitis, 2; pericarditis, 1; appendicitis, 1; measles, 3; malaria, 1; loss of memory, 1; myalgia, 4; renal disease, 3; cerebrospinal fever contact, 1; bronchitis, 7; vaccinia, 5; gastritis, 2; neuralgia, 2; rheumatism, 5; anti-typhoid inoculation 5; headache, 3.

Dr. Ord has kindly allowed me to give particulars relating to eighteen of the earlier cases who were under his care at the Salisbury Infirmary.

I must also express my thanks to my colleagues in Salisbury for their assistance in administering anæsthetics when necessary, and also to the bacteriologists of the Military Hospital, Sutton-Veny.

Reviews.

ROLL OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

By the late Colonel William Johnston, C.B. Aberdeen: University Press. 1917. Pp. lxxii and 638. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

To many of the older officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps this volume has an interest apart from its avowed object, in that it was a labour of love on the part of a well-known, highly and justly esteemed officer of the Corps, to whom we owe much more than most of us recognize, even those with some fragments of knowledge on the subject.

The personal note contributed by Sir William Babbie, V.C., with the bibliography of Johnston's work, explains why his memory is so respected—for his personal qualities and for the work he did.

The Roll covers the period June, 1727, to June, 1898, and it is of course essential for the proper understanding of the Roll itself, that some account should be given of the vicissitudes of the Medical Services of the Army at various times. This is naturally technical to a considerable degree and not very easy reading, but one has the impression that part of this ground has been surveyed—more in outline—by other authors in previous articles; if not, it appears desirable that Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. L. Howell should supply such a sketch, for which there is no one better qualified. The development to its present stage of the

Royal Army Medical Corps is now more than a Corps concern; and something to be read and understood by the general public would be of exceptional interest. There is, of course, a good deal about one period (not the least interesting) in the life of Florence Nightingale—probably that period of the Nineteenth Century at which the greatest stimulus was given. But for the older men Colonel Johnston's account revives memories of old contests, old controversies, many of which now seem trivial, though all were stages in evolution.

Of the Roll itself it is difficult to speak except in recognition of the ability, labour and determination necessary for its compilation. It happens that the volume opened casually at pp. 322, 323, i.e., 1842-43, and the name of Sir Thomas Longmore appears under 1843, the first on the Roll of those whom the reviewer knew personally, though Edmund Alexander Parkes and Sir William Muir are known to many—one as a leader in modern hygiene and the other as a great Director-General. As the Roll goes on—one's personal acquaintances (from a very humble position) increase very slowly, but the known names rapidly, till one reaches the period when the men one served under appear—and memories of companionship and occasional antagonism arise. Recollections of old stories, and the thousand and one incidents of one's life, revive—it suggests the tension of the Day of Judgment, which cannot be unmixd with Homeric laughter unless a sense of humour is essentially a bodily quality.

The pity of it is that no young officer can get the full value of the book, though every one should see what his predecessors have done. After all there were brave men before Agamemnon.

The book has been ably edited by Lieutenant-Colonel Howell, who shows how the work, incomplete at the time of Colonel Johnston's death, was carried on by his hands and by Colonel Peterkin, C.B., with assistance from others named.

Every Royal Army Medical Corps Mess and Library, and all Service Clubs should possess this Roll.
R. J. S. S.

THE FITTING OUT AND ADMINISTRATION OF A NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIP. By Fleet Surgeon E. Sutton, R.N. Published by John Wright and Sons, Ltd., Bristol, 1918. Price 8s. Pp. vi + 110, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This small book on fitting out and administration of a Naval Hospital Ship is divided into four sections. Section I is historical and also gives International Law relating to hospital ships and the Geneva Convention. Section II gives in detail the conversion and fitting out of a typical hospital ship. These two sections are an excellent summary and guide on the points to which they refer.

Sections III and IV, comprising more than half the book, give details of organization. The embarkation and disembarkation routine are fully described as regards naval routine. As the rest of the book is applicable to hospital ships of the Army as well as the Navy, it is a pity that the Army routine of embarkation, disembarkation and distribution of the patients to various hospitals is not given, as it would have made the book of more general value.

ELEMENTS OF FIELD HYGIENE AND SANITATION. By Joseph H. Ford, B.S., A.M., M.D., Colonel, Medical Corps U.S. Army. London: William Heinemann, Ltd. 1918. Pp. 248, with Index. 8vo. Price 6s. net.

This book is a very useful addition to the library of practical war sanitation. Some of the methods and illustrations have been taken from Lelean's "Sanitation in War," but there is also much that is new. The last chapter on illustrative regulations concerning field hygiene and sanitation are worth issuing to every officer and senior N.C.O. in all Allied armies. The diagrams of constructional details at the end of the book should find a place in the Field Service Pocket Book.

The general text of the book is written to be understood by the combatant officer, and is full of practical suggestions. The work should be of considerable assistance to the sanitary officer in preparing lectures and giving instruction to effective troops. Photographs and diagrams are clear and well reproduced; the subject matter is well printed.