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MALARIA IN MACEDONIA, 1915-1919.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

It is now general knowledge that the military operations in Macedonia were seriously handicapped by the epidemic of malaria which attacked the troops with such devastating results during the three years of our occupation. It would seem that practically every known means of combating this terrible disease was put into operation, yet in spite of all this expenditure of energy it is doubtful if any appreciable reduction in infections took place during our stay in the country, some parts of which cannot be described as anything but pestilential. In organizing the campaign against malaria it soon became evident that so many gaps occurred in our knowledge of the ætiology of the disease, its prevention and treatment, that a special Malaria Inquiry Laboratory was instituted, the duties of which were the investigation of any questions which might assist in eradicating or diminishing the incidence of the disease. The unit was recognized by the War Office as the Malaria Inquiry Laboratory, and was given the following War establishment:—

Detail	Personnel			
	Officers	Staff-Serjeants and Serjeants	Rank and file	Total
Lieutenant-Colonel or Major	1	..	..	1
Captains or Lieutenants	3	..	..	3 (a)
Laboratory Attendants .. ..	..	2 (b)	2 (c)	4
Total	4	2	2	8
Attached driver, A.S.C.M.T. .. ..	..	..	1	1
Total, including attached	4	2	3	9

(ii) Transport.

Detail	Vehicles	Drivers
Motor car	1	1 (d)

(a) 1 bacteriologist, 1 entomologist, 1 chemist.

(b) 1 staff-serjeant, 1 serjeant.

(c) Includes 1 corporal.

(d) Provided by the Army Service Corps.

Of this staff there was a Commanding Officer who regulated the work of the laboratory and undertook investigations on his own part, a pathologist, an entomologist and a bio-chemist, while a physician was attached to control the treatment of cases of malaria under special observation in the wards. The investigations covered a wide field, and the results have been collected in the form of a series of articles by the different workers, as follows:—

PART I.—“The Incidence and Aetiology of Malaria in Macedonia,” by C. M. Wenyon, Temporary Colonel, Army Medical Service, Officer Commanding Malaria Inquiry Laboratory.

PART II.—“Clinical Observations on the Treatment of Malaria in Macedonia,” by A. Greig Anderson, Temporary Major, Royal Army Medical Corps.

PART III.—“Haematological Investigations on Malaria in Macedonia,” by Kenneth McLay, Temporary Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps.

PART IV.—“Chemical Investigations on the Excretion of Quinine by Soldiers in Macedonia,” by T. S. Hele, Temporary Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps.

PART V.—“Entomological Observations on Mosquitoes in Macedonia,” by J. Waterston, Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force).

Every assistance was rendered by the Army authorities, and especially by the Director of Medical Services, Major-General Sir Maurice Holt, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to whom the existence of the laboratory was, in the first place, due. The laboratory was fortunate in the competent staff it possessed, and had it been formed earlier, more important results would certainly have been obtained. The work was greatly facilitated by the energy and enthusiasm of Staff-Serjt. Weavis and Serjt. Muggleton, who rendered invaluable assistance.