Clinical and other Notes

the larger compartment. The larva from which this fly had developed must have lived in this, as no other likely breeding place could be found near by. This compartment was said to be washed out daily with salt water.

One of the stewards was asked if he had noticed flies before, and he stated that the ship always carried what he called "sea-flies," and that these increased in number as the voyage progressed; at first, after the ship had been cleaned in dock, they were few in number, but others appeared later, chiefly in the pantry.

From personal observations made on board, it was seen that the numbers certainly increased as time went on, but unfortunately an attack of influenza cut short further investigations until Port Said was reached.

A varied assortment of insects visited the ship whilst in harbour at Port Said, and it was difficult to distinguish "residents" from "visitors," but as the voyage progressed, the visitors gradually disappeared, Musca remaining the most common genus until Bombay was reached.

On a previous voyage large numbers of Calliphorina (blue bottles) were seen, but this was found to be due to some meat having been exposed, owing to a faulty refrigerator pipe; but the genus Musca appears to breed constantly, and, judging from this and other things noticed on board, there was evidently some flaw in the sanitation of the ship. Several likely breeding places were examined, but no larva or pupa could be found.

It might be of interest to know whether the breeding of Musca on ships is a common occurrence, or is it peculiar to this one ship, which for obvious reasons shall be nameless.

In the Suez Canal large flights of male Chironomidae and Culicidae followed the ship, but only one female mosquito, Culex sp., was caught on the vessel.

Other insects found on board were cockroaches, fleas, bugs, and Phthirius pubis, whilst of the acarinae Sarcoptes scabei, var. homini, appeared in a few cases.

NOTE ON THREE CASES OF INFANTILE KALA AZAR.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

In view of the differences of opinion which exist concerning the source of infection of infantile kala azar, a brief note on three cases of the disease which have occurred recently in Malta may be of interest.

Case 1.—H. C. A boy aged 18 months. An only child. Born in Egypt; father is English, mother is a Maltese. The child was brought from Egypt to Malta when about 6 months old. This child first came under notice early in May, 1920. The anemia and enlarged spleen and liver at once suggested infantile kala azar, and L. infantum was found in large numbers by liver puncture.

Treatment by intravenous injection of tartar emetic was carried out, but the child died on March 21, 1921. In this case no clue to the possible source of infection could be discovered. No dogs were kept in the block of married quarters in which the family was living. The child had had several Maltese nurses but all of them appeared to belong to healthy families.
Case 2.—A girl aged 2 years and 1 month. Born in England of English parents. Brought to Malta when about 8 months old. The history of this child's illness dates from April, 1921, when she became fretful, and lost all appetite. In a few months she began to suffer from crops of boils on the head, and shortly afterwards the usual train of symptoms, diarrhoea, wasting, anaemia and enlargement of the abdomen appeared.

*L. infantum* was found by liver puncture on August 9, 1921. This child is still in hospital under treatment by hypodermic injections of antimonium oxide (Martindale). She has improved rapidly, and there is very marked diminution of the liver and splenic enlargement. A very marked improvement has also occurred in her general condition.

This child had played with a sick dog on several occasions about two months previous to becoming ill. This dog is stated to have been smuggled into Malta from Constantinople. It is said to have been ill and weak, and to have had a "swollen stomach." It was kept for about ten days, and then destroyed. No post-mortem examination of the carcase was possible after such a lapse of time.

This child has had several Maltese nurses, but no possible source of infection can be traced through them.

There is another child, 8 months old and apparently quite healthy, in the same family.

Case 3.—A girl, aged 1 year and 7 months, the second child in a family of three. The parents are both English. The child was born in Malta. A young Maltese girl was employed to look after the child. The nurse was healthy, and there was no history of infantile kala azar in her family. The child became ill in June, 1921.

*L. infantum* was found by liver puncture on July 6. Treatment by intravenous injection of tartar emetic was at once begun. She bore the first injection (0.5 cubic centimetre of 1 per cent. solution) well, but the day following the second injection (one cubic centimetre of the same solution) she had a rigor, which was followed by a rise of temperature to 105° F. and she died twelve hours later, apparently owing to the toxic action of the antimonium tartaratum.

In this case also there was a definite history of a sick dog in the quarter next door. The dog was a small "terrier" mongrel. It is said to have been ill for some months previously. It was weak and wasted, and was constantly vomiting in the garden of the house where the child lived. It died about two months before the child came under notice and in this case also no post-mortem examination of the carcase was possible.

In two of these three cases there appears to be a definite history of association with a sick dog a few months previous to the child itself becoming ill.

This may be simply coincidence, but on the other hand a considerable proportion of the dogs of the Mediterranean Littoral are known to be infected with leishmaniasis. Views differ as to the possibility of transmission of leishmaniasis from dog to infant by means of the flea.

Wenyon, working in Malta some years ago, was unable to infect young dogs by means of fleas which had previously fed on dogs infected with leishmaniasis.

Nicolle, Laveran and Basile, however, consider that the leishmaniasis of infants and dogs is probably identical, and that infection is conveyed from one to the other by means of the flea.
It is unfortunate that no post-mortem examination of the carcases of the dogs that died was possible in either of these two cases.

It is noticeable that each child first showed signs of illness at the beginning of the hot weather.

I am indebted to Major R. Storrs, R.A.M.C., for the clinical details of the above recorded cases.

Travel.

A SHORT WINTER SPORTS HOLIDAY IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL.

By Major R. C. Wilson.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

About the middle of January, I received a communication from the powers that be that if I wanted three weeks' holiday I could take it in four days' time and that if I did not take it then the probability of having leave later was somewhat remote.

Where to go was the problem. England at that time of the year was impossible. Switzerland, for a family party was also out of the question, unless you are well endowed with worldly wealth. The only likely country left was Austria and we decided to go to Innsbruck. An interview with Thomas Cook & Son proved the impossibility of obtaining "sleepers" on the train as they are always booked up well in advance.

As we were a party of five we took 2nd class tickets which cost us 400 marks each for the single journey.

We left Cologne at 9.30 a.m. Belonging to the Army of Occupation we got a compartment reserved for military only, and possession being nine points of the law, had it all to ourselves until we reached Munich. There was an excellent restaurant car on the train and we had lunch, tea and dinner in comfort. All three meals for the five of us, plus drinks, came to about the equivalent of 15s.

Munich was reached about 11 p.m. and we had just time for a light supper of tea and cakes for the female party and a long pot of real Munich beer for the one male representative, before the closing hour of midnight. We found the rooms we had engaged beforehand ready for us at the Hotel Roter Hahn.

The next day was spent in exploring this most interesting city. There is no space for me to describe what we saw, Baedeker can do it much better. If one knows where to go, living is cheap there. In our hotel we paid about 47 marks each for our rooms and that was the only item on the bill. Everything else we had was paid for in cash. Breakfast,