

content method is the better measure of air change or air distribution, assuming of course that the moisture dissipated to the atmosphere is retained therein to the same extent as the CO<sub>2</sub>. This last provision is believed to be true except where some part of the enclosure (such as a window) is sufficiently cold to produce much condensation.

Tests in the psychometric chambers of the Research Laboratory of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, Pittsburgh, show that a greater consistency of results is obtained by measuring the water vapour content than by measuring the CO<sub>2</sub> content.

T. C. ANGUS.

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### Reviews.

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REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL U.S. ARMY TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR, 1933. Washington : U.S. Government Printing Office, 1933.

In the Annual Report, 1933, the Surgeon General deals with vital statistics for the year 1932, and with general matters pertaining to the Medical Service for the financial year which ended in June 1933.

The strength of the Army in 1932 was 131,925, there being 11,693 officers, 109,234 white enlisted men and 3,545 coloured enlisted men, the remainder being Filipinos and Puerto Ricans. Seventy-three per cent of the troops were stationed in the United States.

Health was satisfactory during the year, the admission rate being 680 per 1,000, compared with 651 in 1931 and 608 in 1930. An epidemic of acute respiratory disease, with a low mortality rate, in December, 1932, caused a considerable increase in the rate.

The main causes of admission to hospital were influenza (8,759), bronchitis (4,472), athletic exercise (3,386), gonorrhœa (3,348), acute tonsillitis (2,569), pharyngitis (2,508), rhinitis (2,460), chronic tonsillitis (2,376), falls (2,000), enteritis and colitis (1,821), cellulitis (1,570), and syphilis (1,509).

Admissions for venereal diseases (42 per 1,000) were the lowest ever recorded, but they are still the greatest cause of loss of time off duty. In China, with a strength of about 1,200 white enlisted men, the admissions for venereal diseases were 102 per 1,000.

For the last two years experiments have been made in the use of hexylresorcinol as a preventive of gonorrhœa, a 25 per cent solution being used, 33 per cent having been found to be too strong. This chemical has been found to be as effective as protargentum, and has the advantage that it does not stain clothing.

Malaria was responsible for only 616 admissions, the admission ratios in Panama being 31.9 per 1,000 and in China 90.8 per 1,000. The Medical

Department Research Board carried out work on solar ultra-violet radiometry, a report of which will be published in the *Philippine Journal of Science*, also researches on surra, amœbiasis and yaws.

The full strength of officers in the Medical Corps is 983, the numbers in the various ranks being: Major-General, 1; Brigadier-Generals, 2; Colonels, 75; Lieutenant-Colonels, 98; Majors, 551; Captains, 137; Lieutenants, 91. Full strength was maintained until October when there were 25 vacancies. Of 14 internes (recent medical graduates) trained in Army hospitals, 9 qualified for appointment in the Regular Corps, and 26 civilian candidates, who qualified by examination for admission to the Reserve Corps, were called up for a period of not less than six months active duty, at the end of which it was intended to re-examine them for admission to the Regular Army.

The remarks made by the Surgeon General in his letter of transmission are of interest. He writes: "Prior to the passing of the Economy Act in the latter part of the year candidates for the Regular Corps were placed on duty under reserve commissions, and after a six-month period of observation were reported on as to suitability and adaptability for commissions in the Regular Army. These officers were paid out of Veterans' Administration funds during this probationary period; but since such funds are no longer available, admissions to the Regular Corps from civil life must be made directly. Early in the present century it was decided that before any contract was entered into with a candidate for commission in the Medical Corps he should be given a period of observation to determine his fitness for service in the Army. Suitable legislation was passed with this end in view and proved very satisfactory for many years. A revival of this method is now the subject of study and will be reported upon later."

Commissioned personnel in the Medical Department Reserve Corps numbered 11,936, the numbers in the various ranks being: Brigadier-Generals, 3; Colonels, 334; Lieutenant-Colonels, 851; Majors, 1,744; Captains, 2,222; First Lieutenants, 6,782; and, in addition, a great many appointments were made in the last month of the year.

The strength of enlisted men in the Regular Corps was 6,523, of whom 591 were detailed to the veterinary service; this strength represents 5 per cent of the actual strength of the Regular Army, but the Surgeon General considers that the proportion is too small and that it should be raised to 7 per cent.

**PRACTICAL POINTS IN EYE SURGERY AND DRESSING.** By Hugh E. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd. 1933. Pp. 27. Price 2s. 6d. net.

The scope of this booklet of 27 pages is summarized in the author's introductory paragraph, "This little book is neither an abridged textbook nor an examination cram-book, but comprises an attempt to provide

answers promptly to some of the innumerable questions which arise to puzzle the inexperienced nurse or house-surgeon who has just begun to work in the eye department of a general hospital, or even the general practitioner who has charge of eye cases in a cottage hospital or nursing home, and so to prevent harmful first aid and to ensure helpful preparation for operations."

The book covers a very limited field; is entirely practical, and should be of value to those for whom it is written.

J. B.

BACTERIOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By A. D. Gardner, D.M., F.R.C.S. Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. 1933. Pp. 276. Price 6s. net.

In the preface the author says that his aim has been to present shortly, readably and relevantly as much of the vast subject of bacteriology as a medical student or practitioner needs to know and we congratulate him on his success. The book is remarkable for the amount of interesting information that it holds; it is thoroughly up to date and leaves out nothing of importance. Protozoal diseases, viruses, bacteriophage, immunity, all are dealt with. There is a final chapter on hygiene. To get so much into a small pocket book, in such a readable form, is a great achievement. We can see little to criticize. There is a mistake on p. 201, where it refers to the carrier "mosquito" of trypanosome infection, but it is the only slip we have been able to find. The book can be thoroughly recommended to all officers of the Corps.

A. C. H. G.

HAIG. By Brigadier-General J. Charteris. London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd. 1933. Pp. 144. Price 2s. net.

An interesting volume in Messrs. Duckworths' modestly priced Great Lives series is "Haig."

In the first four chapters General Charteris has succeeded in giving a very clear picture of the early life of Field Marshal Haig, of his methods of working, his experiences in India, at Aldershot and in the War Office, and on active service in the Sudan and in South Africa. This part of the book might be described as dealing with the making of Haig.

The largest part of the volume covers the period of the Great War, and we see how the great soldier came to regard himself as being almost divinely set apart for the task which he successfully accomplished.

In the last few pages we read of the visit of homage to the then discredited Lord Haldane, whom he described as "the Greatest Secretary for War England has ever had," and of Lord Haig's devotion of the remaining years of his life to the cause of the ex-Service men.

The book is so finely written that one lays it down with the feeling that one has just read a large history.

A short bibliography is appended to the volume.