

opinion, it ought to be given to the Principal Medical Officer, whose duty it should be to thoroughly sift the advice thus given and then make the necessary recommendations to the General Officer Commanding.

In the same way as a General Officer Commanding in the field receives advice from his several staff officers as to the proper method of attack to be adopted, and, after carefully considering all the advice he has received, forms his own opinion as to the right course to pursue, and has to assume all responsibility for his action, so it should be with a Principal Medical Officer—he should receive expert advice from his special Sanitary Officer. As I have said above, he is, from the nature of his training, better able (than the General) to understand and appreciate that advice and the technicalities involved; he should base his opinions as far as possible on the advice of his special Sanitary Officer, and then offer the General any recommendation he may consider necessary; in doing so he rightly takes upon himself all responsibility for the recommendation made.

To allow a special Sanitary Officer to become a free lance would, I am sure, be followed by disastrous results.

Yours &c.,
SEBERT F. GREEN,
Major, R.A.M.C.

Bermuda,
December 28th, 1906.

WANTED, AN EXPLANATION!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—During Christmas week I went to stay with the Resident at Sarant Wadi—a native State not far from Goa, and about seventeen miles inland from the small seaport of Vingorla. The climate is tropical, vegetation luxuriant, rainfall 130 inches; there is any amount of water about, even in the dry season—tanks, wet "paddy," and the like—yet there are no mosquitoes and no malaria. The Residency is ideally situated in respect to mosquitoes, but none of the party used, or required, curtains, and my host assured me they were never wanted at any season of the year. This was confirmed by others, including the doctor of the hospital—a qualified Parsi. I hunted for larvæ, but failed to find any. To add to the mystery I was informed that sixteen miles away the villages were well nigh depopulated with malignant malaria, and that though such cases were brought to the hospital from time to time, no contagion resulted. I rooted about in the vague hope that I was on the threshold of some epoch-making discovery; for, if we could locate the cause, it might be applicable elsewhere; but, I confess, I am just as puzzled now as I was then.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. FORMAN,
Colonel, R.A.M.C.

Bombay,
January 22nd, 1907.