

all yielded to the ordinary external methods of treatment. It seems, therefore, that iced enemata should only be used, if at all, as a last resource, and certainly we think their administration as a routine measure is unnecessary, and not at all free from grave risk.

We are, yours, &c.,

Jhansi, India,

ALFRED J. HULL AND KEPPEL H. REED,

January 18th, 1907.

Captains, R.A.M.C.

ENTERIC FEVER IN AMBALA, 1880-1905.

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

SIR,—I know nothing of Ambala, except from the above mentioned article by Lieutenant-Colonel S. Glenn Allen¹, and from information obtained from the study of Army Medical Department Reports. The fact that enteric fever was practically absent in Ambala in 1905, and that this improvement continued in 1906, is a very important one. There seems to me, however, one very curious omission in Lieutenant-Colonel Allen's paper, viz., the fact that in 1905 (according to the Army Medical Report for that year), in addition to the other sanitary reforms, a new water supply from deep wells was piped to the barracks and various standing camps. Almost all text-books on hygiene and medicine give water as an important, if not the most important, cause of enteric fever. Many instances could be given of the fact that with a pure water supply in place of a suspicious one the death-rate has marvellously decreased. To give one instance: in the barracks at Calcutta the death-rate was decreased thirty years ago from 100 per 1,000 to 10 per 1,000 simply by providing a pure water supply, and ever since Calcutta has been singularly free from enteric fever compared to many stations in India. Lieutenant-Colonel Allen states that water was not considered a cause of enteric fever in Ambala, but the fact that great expense must have been incurred in providing a new supply in place of the old one, from which an organism resembling *B. typhosus* had once been separated, and which was admittedly at all times liable to contamination, shows that this could not have been the opinion of all. In any case, the fact that in 1905 Ambala had a new and pure water supply was, I think, worthy of mention for the benefit of the readers of this Journal who have not the time, interest or opportunity, to study old Army Medical Reports.

I am, &c.,

York,

NORMAN FAICHNIE,

February 11th, 1907.

Major, R.A.M.C.

¹ JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, February, 1907, p. 123.