

analgesia by eucaïne. I have never seen it. My own condition after an injection of about 8 ozs. of Barker's solution, was rather one of depression than of excitement.

Colchester,
August 7th, 1907.

I am, &c.,
F. J. W. PORTER,
Major, R.A.M.C.

THE INCUBATION PERIOD OF BILHARZIA DISEASE.

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

DEAR SIR,—In a recent number of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, vol. vi., No. 2, 1906, a letter appeared from Dr. F. M. Sandwith, in which he asked for any information regarding the incubation period of Bilharzia disease. I have lately come across some notes which may perhaps be of value in throwing some light on this still uncertain question.

When at Pretoria in 1903, being anxious to obtain some definite information on this subject, I asked the medical officer of the 8th Hussars, Dr. Abercrombie, to make some observations on recently-arrived drafts, and he very kindly supplied me with the following facts, all of which he carefully verified. The regiment was then encamped on the slope of a hill at Daspoort, near Pretoria, below which ran a stream called Skinner's Spruit, in which the men frequently bathed.

Certain rivers in the Pretoria district are responsible for a large number of cases of Bilharzia disease, notably the Apies river, into which this Spruit runs. During the war many cases of this disease occurred among men living in the blockhouses above the river. It is interesting to note that the infection is probably only obtained from running water, such as streams or rivers.

Out of a draft of 206 men of the 8th Hussars, who arrived in the camp from England in November, 1902, six cases occurred between that date and July, 1903, and in a draft of thirty-five men who arrived in December, 1902, there was one case, as shown in the table below:—

| Case | Age | Service Years | Date of Arrival in South Africa | Date of reporting sick with Bilharzia ova in the urine | Interval between arrival and reporting sick | Remarks |
|------|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | 20 | 1 | 9.11.02 | 1.2.03 | 12 weeks | |
| 2 | 20 | 1 | 9.11.02 | 17.2.03 | 14 " | |
| 3 | 20 | 1 | 9.11.02 | 6.3.03 | 4 months | |
| 4 | 21 | 1 | 9.11.02 | 19.3.03 | 4 " | |
| 5 | 20 | 1 | 9.11.02 | 20.3.03 | 4 " | |
| 6 | 23 | 3 | 9.11.02 | 6.7.03 | 7 " | Gives a history of four months' duration. |
| 7 | 16 | 1 | 4.12.02 | 19.6.03 | 6½ " | Gives a history of three days' duration. |