

THE NATIONAL TUBERCULIN SURVEY AND THE ARMY

BY

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*(Continued from page 156. September 1950)**

It is not proposed to report in detail on the results, as an analysis will no doubt form part of the official Medical Research Council report. A preliminary survey of the figures is, however, of interest.

Out of 5,130 who completed the test, 2,294 were positive at 1/10,000 and 1,121 positive at 1/100. There were 64 doubtfuls at 1/100 and 1,651 negatives. If these are expressed as a percentage the results are as follows:

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Doubtful</i>	<i>Negative</i>
1/10,000	1/100		
44.7%	21.9%	1.2%	32.2%

Five cases of active tuberculosis were diagnosed, 4 of them positive at 1/10,000 and 1 positive at 1/100. The radiologists also reported 13 cases of inactive tuberculosis (healed calcified) of which 3 were Mantoux negative.

In this respect it should be noted that of the two radiologists concerned one was responsible for nearly 90 per cent of the reports.

SUMMARY

The Army's contribution to the National Tuberculin Survey is described.

It is suggested that in doubtful reactions at a dilution of 1/10,000 Old Tuberculin, the second tests should employ a 1/1,000 and NOT 1/100 dilution.

A jump from 1/10,000 to 1/100 is otherwise quite safe.

A preliminary survey of the results gives a figure of 66.5 per cent positive reactions in National Service men.

I am indebted to Dr. A. E. Brown, who conducted the National Tuberculin Survey on behalf of the Medical Research Council, for his unfailing patience, forbearance and help in the organization of the Army's contribution to the work.

* Owing to a printer's error the concluding portion of this article was omitted. The error is regretted.—Ed.

Thanks are also due to all the medical officers in charge of the troops concerned and to Staff-Serjeant F. V. Roadway, R.A.M.C., of Southern Command Laboratory, who organized a steady supply of sterile materials.

Thanks are also due to the Director-General, Army Medical Services, for permission to publish this preliminary report.

REFERENCES

- WILSON, G. S., and MILES, A. A. (1946) Topley and Wilson's Principles of Bacteriology and Immunology, London, 1301.
M.R.C. War Memorandum (1945) No. 15.

[A full report on the National Tuberculin Survey is under publication by the Medical Research Council.]