

Medical Matters.**THE SOUTH AFRICAN TYPE OF TYPHOID FEVER.**

TYPHOID fever here differs materially from the form usual in England, says the Cape Town correspondent of the *British Medical Journal*, and approximates more nearly to the Indian type. The classical textbook typhoid is hardly ever seen here, and diagnosis, especially in the early stages, is very difficult. A practitioner of very large experience assures me that he does not see a rash in more than one out of five or six cases in civil practice, although the medical officer has apparently seen at Woodstock a larger proportion amongst soldiers. This is interesting, as it may be due to the type being an imported one. Then again, it is extremely rare to find the temperature chart typical. The temperature hardly ever goes either up or down in the orthodox manner, and defervescence is very irregular, and marked by a much closer approximation of the morning and evening register than is usual in Europe. Marked diarrhoea, again, is less frequent, and the characteristic tongue is seldom met with. Diarrhoea, when it is present, often appears only at a late period, perhaps for the first time in the third or even the fourth week, and gurgling and abdominal tenderness are frequently absent. Indeed, it may be said that a large number of enteric cases present nothing but pyrexia and the conditions which accompany any pyrexia. And yet many of these simple pyrexial cases are fatal, presenting typical lesions at the necropsy. The writer saw many such during the Kaffir and Zulu wars, when the disease was extremely rife. The fever is very often extremely prolonged, without any complications, and assumes very often an intermittent type. Cardiac failure is a frequent cause of death, and most experienced practitioners guard against it very carefully from the beginning. One cannot help thinking that there is something in the typho-malarial theory after all. Curiously enough there do not seem to be very many cases of enteric amongst the Boer prisoners from Cronje's force. What cases there are are being mostly taken to Wynberg. Several cases of measles have already appeared, but, although occurring in adults, do not seem to be severe. All the infectious cases amongst the prisoners are sent to Woodstock. This

hospital which is now, under the immediate eye of Colonel Supple, being got into excellent order, needs a few more nurses to make it complete, and these will be installed as soon as quarters are ready for their reception.

HEROES OF MALARIA.

PEACE hath her victories as well as war. The history of medical scientific research is full of instances of splendid devotion to duty such as would, if displayed on the field of battle, have earned for their heroes world-wide fame. It is probable, however, that few heroes of medicine have exhibited a greater degree of fearlessness than must be possessed by the men who have volunteered to become the subjects of the malarial experiments which are about to be undertaken under the supervision of Dr. Manson, medical adviser to the Colonial Office. The doctor himself describes these experiments as remarkable, and remarkable they certainly are. They are divided into two sections. A hut is to be erected in the most malarial part of the Roman Campagna which is available. This hut will be furnished with wire gauze door and window screens, and other devices, to render it mosquito proof, and two skilled observers and their two servants are to live in it from May till October of this year—that is, during the entire malarial season. If those men escape from fever it will be absolute proof that by very simple and inexpensive means the human body could be protected from the malaria germ, and medical science will, to that extent, be better able to fight the disease. The second experiment is even more extraordinary. A number of mosquitoes raised from the egg in the laboratory, and which have had no opportunity of picking up malaria germs in the haunts of malaria, are to be fed in Rome on patients in whose blood the presence of the disease has been ascertained by the microscope. The insects will then be liberated in a small mosquito house in which one or more Englishmen who have never before left this country are to sleep. It is expected that in about ten days those Englishmen will develop malarial fever, for it is now regarded as certain that the mosquito is the means of conveying the germs of the malady from one human patient to another. Dr. Manson says that neither of these experiments is dangerous; but, all the same, it is impossible not to admire the courage of the gentlemen who have volunteered to undergo the unpleasant experiences involved.

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