

patients in one hospital would be bled each morning, while other patients would have as much as two pints of brandy administered daily. Many and various names have been given to this disease: feverens, pestilens, parish fever, spotted fever, spirit or brain fever, putrid fever, gaol fever, camp or hospital fever, &c.

In the notorious Black Assizes, the judge and high sheriffs were stricken with the disease, conveyed to them by the prisoners. These unfortunate creatures, tried and untried, were herded together under conditions of unspeakable misery, and the prisons were emptied rapidly by the disease, combined with the aid of the hangman.

The insanitary, overcrowded, and poverty-stricken parts of Ireland have from time to time been the centres of typhus, and so late as the July of this year it was reported that a house in County Donegal contained four typhus victims, deserted by their families and shunned by their neighbours. The Poor Law Guardian who reported the case himself helped the nurses to bury two of the victims in a field. The relatives and friends left the provisions by the roadside, and the nurses had to give their unfortunate patients milk that was often sour; also the turf and water had to be fetched. A brother of the patient assaulted the nurses, and the police were censured for not remaining on duty to protect them.

In an epidemic in Cork some years previously it was reported that in the hospitals, of those in attendance on typhus patients—students, nurses, or servants—there was no one who did not contract the disease.

THE GERMAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST LICE.

In spite of many precautions, says the *British Medical Journal*, the Germans appear to have lost many men from typhus. Among its victims are Jochmann and v. Prowozek, whose claims to distinction, curiously enough, were largely based on their investigations on typhus. The measures adopted to stamp out the disease include the conversion of large factories, notably sugar factories, into stations for disinfecting soldiers and their clothing. Some of these are large enough to cope with 12,000 to 15,000 men with their clothing every day. The men are thoroughly washed with soap in baths, while their clothing is disinfected by steam, and leather articles by dry heat. In many prisoners' camps experiments have been carried out with a view to ascertaining the cheapest and most effective way of destroying lice, and Professor

Galewsky has given* the following account of his experiments in a prisoners' camp in Königsbruck. A building, used by Russian prisoners, nearly all of whom were infested with lice, was selected for the first experiment. All cracks, crannies, and corners were washed with a 3 per cent. solution of kresol soap, and were then filled up. The clothing was hung up loosely, with the exception of a parcel of shirts, which were tied into a firm bundle. In this building, the floor of which measured 450 square metres, 25 kilos. of sulphur were burnt in 16 sulphur stoves. The burning proceeded rapidly, and reached its maximum in 45 minutes. After three hours the doors and windows were again opened, and two hours later the building was occupied by the prisoners, who had meanwhile been washed. The lice and their eggs were found to have been completely destroyed, except in the tightly packed parcel of shirts. The sulphur stoves used were made on the principle of a Bunsen burner, and the sixteen cost only 300 marks. Experiments carried out by Oberapotheker L. Schlesinger showed that lice and their eggs were killed in two hours by sulphur dioxide vapour, but only in two hours and a half or more by formaldehyde, which was also inferior on account of its irritating smell. Dry heat was sufficient to kill the lice and their eggs in one hour, provided the clothing was hung up loosely. But the dry heat sterilizer used could only accommodate the clothing of fifteen men at a time, and it also had a deleterious effect on leather. The conclusions to which most German investigators appear to have come are that sulphur vapour is the simplest and cheapest as well as the most reliable agent for the destruction of lice and their eggs in clothing and buildings.

REPORTED CURE FOR DIABETES.

The *Times* New York correspondent states that the Rockefeller Foundation for Medical Research has discovered what the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* announces as a positive cure for diabetes. The work conducted on patients in Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, is convincing as to the efficacy of the remedy.

The basis of the remedy is bicarbonate of sodium with a small amount of salt. In extreme cases the treatment is given hypodermically. Dr. H. F. Biggar, Mr. Rockefeller's personal physician, in an interview, states that the most extreme cases have responded to the remedy.

* Deut. med. Woch., May 27th, 1915.

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