

## MEDICAL MATTERS.

### THE INFLUENCE OF SYPHILIS ON THE WOUNDS OF WAR.

The Paris correspondent of the *Lancet* writes:—

The influence of syphilis on the effects of traumatism has long been known, and is now being freely observed in military patients. The consolidation of fractures, in particular, is slower in syphilitic subjects; the callus, though more profuse, is more friable. Dr. Sourdél, a surgeon with the army, has drawn attention to several points in this connection, mentioning that the influences of syphilis on the wounds of war manifest themselves not at first, but in the later stages of treatment. A wound involving skin and muscle, for example, will be found slow in cicatrisation, the borders becoming livid and badly vascularised, but the unhealthy conditions will disappear rapidly on the application of a specific dressing like Vigo's plaster. In suppurating conditions after operations on the knee-joint, after a long period of discharge there will be rapid amelioration, but there will be fistulous tracts, and these will continue to discharge, with defined edges, as though punched out. If a specific history is obtained, drastic treatment, like the intravenous injection of cyanide of mercury, will generally give good results. Syphilitic subjects are liable to secondary hæmorrhagè, and minor causes—the irritation of a ligature, a drain, or a small foreign body—produce in them serious results, even hæmorrhages to the point of anæmia. If these patients are submitted to some such specific treatment as hypodermic injection of biniodide of mercury, the tendency to hæmorrhage will disappear, and cicatrisation will proceed normally. Dr. Sourdél recommends the specific treatment for syphilis of every wounded syphilitic subject, especially where any abnormality occurs in the course of the healing of the injury.

### FACILITIES FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

The British Medical Association, at its Annual Representative Meeting, adopted the following recommendations of the Medico-Political Committee:—

That extended facilities should be made available for the diagnosis of venereal diseases by laboratory methods. To whatever body the organization of this service is entrusted such service should include the provision of laboratory facilities having for their object the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases in general. In any schemes framed by local authorities, the

fullest use should be made of the laboratory facilities at universities and hospitals.

That measures should be taken to render the best modern treatment of venereal diseases readily available for the whole community, and the arrangements should be such that persons affected by these diseases will have no hesitation in taking advantage of the facilities for treatment which are afforded. That every registered medical practitioner should be in a position to ensure his patients access to institutional treatment when he considers that course desirable.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

On Saturday, August 5th, the following members of the nursing profession had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace by the King when His Majesty conferred on them the decoration of the Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class: Miss Janet Bruce, Matron Nursing Staff of Military and War Hospitals; Miss Ida Bodin, Nursing Staff of Military and War Hospitals; Miss Harriet Powell, Nursing Staff of Military and War Hospitals; Mrs. Grant Williams, Nursing Staff of Military and War Hospitals; Miss Margaret Ireland, Nursing Staff of Civil Hospitals; Miss Frances Slinger, Nursing Staff of Civil Hospitals; Miss Violet Stapleton, Nursing Staff of Civil Hospitals; and Miss Jessie Stiles, Nursing Staff of Civil Hospitals.

We have pleasure in publishing the portraits of Sister Alice Bowdler and Nurses D. Hirst and E. Fisher, of the Royal Infirmary, Huddersfield, whose names were included in the Birthday Honours' List, and whom the King recently decorated at Buckingham Palace with the Royal Red Cross (2nd Class) in recognition of the care and devotion given to wounded soldiers during the time they were under treatment at the Huddersfield Infirmary. It will be remembered that the Matron, Miss Emily Barry, received the Royal Red Cross (1st Class) at the same time.

A supplement to the *London Gazette*, issued on February 3rd, gives a despatch on military operations in the Nyasaland Protectorate, sent by the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and dated November 1st, 1915. The Governor encloses a despatch from Lieut.-Colonel G. M. P. Hawthorn, 1st King's African Rifles, Commanding the troops in Nyasaland, and, amongst those whose names he brings to the Governor's notice, are Miss A. Pallot and Miss B. Empson who were present at Karonga when the post was attacked on September 9th, 1914, and were most assiduous and indefatigable in their care of the wounded in hospital.

Miss R. Paterson, Matron, was sent to Karonga when more help was required after the action on September 9th, 1914, since when she and Miss

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