

safely eat them without recourse to the hideous process of disinfecting them in permanganate of potash (recommended by residents in China, where cholera, typhoid, and dysentery usually flourish together), and water strongly impregnated with lemon juice is certainly more palatable than that in which has been dissolved chloride of lime or the painfully wholesome Halozone tablets. Instances of makeshifts could be multiplied almost indefinitely. Perhaps other nurses in foreign fields will add their experiences.

H. T.

### ETIOLOGY OF TRENCH FEVER.

At a meeting of the Society of Tropical Medicine, as reported in the *British Medical Journal*, Major Byam, R.A.M.C., gave particulars of the experiments tracing the infection of trench fever to the louse, carried out for the Trench Fever Investigation Committee, of which Major-General Sir David Bruce, K.C.B., F.R.S., is chairman. Major Byam summarized the results of the experimental work as follows:

1. The whole blood from febrile trench fever cases up to the fifty-first day of disease, when injected intravenously, was capable of reproducing the disease. *The incubation period in such infections varied greatly—from five to twenty days.*

2. The virus as contained in the circulating blood was destroyed by the addition of distilled water in large quantities.

3. The bites alone of infective lice did not produce trench fever.

4. The excreta of infective lice when applied to a broken surface of skin readily produced trench fever. *The incubation period of such infections was remarkably constant and averaged eight days.*

5. The excreta of lice fed on trench fever patients were not infective till the expiration of not less than eight nor more than twelve days from the commencement of the feeding on trench fever blood thus indicating a developmental cycle in the louse or a period during which the organism multiplied.

6. Once lice were infective they remained so till at least the twenty-third day from the date of their infection.

7. The virus of trench fever, as contained in infected louse excreta was capable of withstanding drying at room temperature, exposure to sunlight, keeping for not less than sixteen days, and heating to 56 degrees C. for twenty minutes.

8. Eighty degrees C. for ten minutes destroyed the virus, which was therefore not a spore-bearing organism.

9. The bodies of infected lice, when crushed upon the broken skin, were capable of producing trench fever. When lice became so infective remained to be determined.

10. Infection probably did not take place by the mouth or by inhalation.

11. The excreta of lice were not normally capable of producing trench fever.

12. Trench fever infected lice did not transmit the disease to their offspring.

13. There was a possibility of some attacks of trench fever being afebrile throughout.

14. The percentage of individuals naturally immune to trench fever was exceedingly small.

15. Old age was no bar to infection.

16. Such immunity as resulted from an attack of trench fever was not permanent, and might only persist for so long as the individual showed evidence of the disease.

17. Even as late as the seventy-ninth day of disease a patient's blood might remain infective, and be capable of infecting lice fed on such a patient while febrile.

18. The different varieties of trench fever resulted from differences in the persons infected rather than in the source of infection.

As experiments had been but few some of these findings might be modified by future work.

### OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

#### NURSES' DEATHS FROM WOUNDS.

We deeply regret to note three more members of the Canadian Army Nursing Service are in the casualty list—Sisters D. M. V. Baldwin, A. McPherson, and E. L. Pringle, all of whom have died of wounds. Sister M. Lowe, also of the Canadian Army Nursing Service, previously reported wounded, has also died of wounds.

#### THE MILITARY MEDAL.

Sister Mary Agatha Brown, whose portrait is reproduced on page 424, is one of the nurses who has been awarded the Military Medal for distinguished service in the field. The *London Gazette* records that the medal has been conferred upon her "for bravery and devotion to duty during a hostile bombing raid when in company with the Matron, who was severely wounded, and a Sister, who was killed. She remained with them and tended them till help arrived. Subsequently, she returned to the casualty clearing station, and worked devotedly for many hours, under conditions of great danger."

#### ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Many hundreds of men and women have been admitted to the various grades of the Order of the British Empire, on the occasion of the King's birthday. We note amongst the Dames Grand Cross Miss Ethel Hope Becher, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service), and that Miss Emma Maud McCarthy, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief in France, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service), is made Commander, and Mrs. Kerr-Lawson (Superintendent of Queen Mary's Hostel for War Nurses), a Member.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)