

of cases of typhus: at least 20,000. In the Italian army there was not a single case. What was the reason? Rigorous cleanliness among the troops. It was most exceptional to find a soldier infested with lice, while louse infestation was common among the Abyssinians.

Relapsing Fever.—Where there is typhus there is usually relapsing fever. Among the Italian troops the disease was rare; seventeen cases being reported. The Abyssinians had many thousands of cases; the total is believed to be between 20,000 and 30,000.

Heat Stroke.—Heat stroke was almost completely absent among troops, both in Eritrea and Somaliland. There was a total of thirty cases with seven deaths. It may be remembered that during the Great War the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia in 1917 had 6,242 cases, with 524 deaths.

The principal precautions taken were the following:—(1) the use of sun helmet by every soldier; (2) no alcoholic drinks, not even a glass of wine, except after sunset; (3) whenever possible, marching was avoided and the troops were driven in motor lorries.

Beri-beri.—Not a single case developed among the Italian troops.

Scurvy has often been a scourge of the armies in war time. As is well known, the disease is due to the diet being deficient in Vitamin C. Scurvy was rampant in the Abyssinian army on the Somaliland front. There were no cases in the Italian army. What was the reason? A small precaution; every soldier was given a lemon a day.

Leprosy.—There were no cases among the Italian troops.

Tetanus.—Five cases, with four deaths.

Gas gangrene.—No cases.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.—No cases.

Plague.—No cases.

Cholera.—There was not a single case of this disease during the war, before the war, or after the war.

(The lecturer than dealt with the incidence of the minor diseases, prickly heat, jiggers, dhobie itch, chelitis crustosis, which, though they do not cause death, and do not usually incapacitate the soldier, are a source of annoyance).

The following table shows the losses sustained by the national white troops during the war, which numbered approximately 500,000 men:—

On the field or died from wounds.		Deaths from disease.	
Officers	... 119	Officers	... 22
Men	... 980	Men	... 577
Total	... 1,099	Total	... 599

It must be noted that in the official reports, the column "Deaths from diseases" includes also deaths from any injury not caused directly by the enemy, e.g., deaths from motor accidents, from drowning, etc. The exact number of deaths from disease (officers and men) was 516.

According to the experience of previous colonial wars in tropical countries in which white troops were chiefly employed, deaths from disease in the Italian Army should have been more than 20,000.

I may be allowed to quote, slightly abbreviated, the statements made by Mr. James L. Rohrbaugh, Correspondent of the United Press of America, an eye witness, in a correspondence from Addis Ababa (United Press Red Letter, New York, July 11th, 1936):—

"In the Abyssinian army, diseases were very numerous; more than half the cases were dysentery. Scurvy destroyed the army on the southern front; smallpox decimated the army of Mulughietta on the northern front. At Dessie, pneumonia was raging. The terrible disease typhus was passing from one camp to another, killing the victims in a few days. Malaria and relapsing fever were common. Women and children in thousands accompanied the soldiers

to the front, but only a very few returned, the others being killed by disease.

"The Red Cross doctors tried in vain to help the soldiers: they were only able to carry out their work in small zones. The army was destroyed to a great extent by disease and hunger."

Mr. Rohrbaugh ends his article by saying: "It is obviously no exaggeration to say that one of the prime reasons for Italian success was the continued health of its armies, due to the efficiency of their medical service. It also might be observed that medical science made it possible for white people to live in unhealthy climates under adverse conditions, and to remain in better health than natives acclimatised by hundreds of years of continuous abode."

"IMPERISHABLE FAME."

A most touching and inspiring ceremony took place when a bronze memorial portrait bust, a most striking and appealing likeness of King Albert of the Belgians, was unveiled recently at St. Andrew's Hospital, Dollis Hill, by Lord Leverhulme, President of the British Section of the Anglo-Belgian Union. On the pedestal is the inscription:

"Albert, King of the Belgians, 1900-1934. A tribute of admiration from men and women of the British Empire and members of the Anglo-Belgian Union."

They were there, said Lord Leverhulme, to do honour to one whose fame had been justly described as "imperishable," for his personality, courage, and leadership in the dark days of the Great War had left a lasting impression in the hearts and memories of all, and his place among the great figures of that tragic period of the world's history would remain secure. It was hard to find words in which to express their admiration for King Albert's life and character. In his fine presence, his physical vigour, his unceasing attention to the affairs of State, his great charm of manner and his personal modesty one saw the embodiment of kingship. He was every inch a King, and at the same time every inch a man—a great leader of his country, but never aloof from the concerns of his people.

They could not sufficiently thank the sculptor for all the care and personal love of King Albert that had produced this noble portrait.

It was thought that no better object could be chosen for commemoration of King Albert than the raising of a sum of money for the benefit of that hospital of which Queen Elisabeth of the Belgians was Patroness. The suggestion was approved by Her Majesty and the Belgian Royal Family.

Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, as President of the hospital, accepted the bust and also a cheque for £500 for the endowment of a cot in the children's ward. He blessed the memorial and said he heartily united himself with the homage that had been paid to the memory of a great king. King Albert had a soul which was true to God and true to the best interests of humanity.

TO COUNTER SOCIAL DISEASES.

The New York correspondent of *The Times* states that a long step forward in legislation to counter social diseases has been made in New York State, where a Bill has been passed requiring prospective mothers to submit to a blood test. Health authorities say that, when treatment follows, in nine cases out of 10 the child is born healthy. They believe that at least 13,000 children a year can be saved by this means in New York State.

The Legislature has also passed a law requiring blood tests before marriage.

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