

## Correspondence.

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*To the Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW :*

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your request for an article on affairs medical in the Yukon, I take pleasure in submitting to you the following general observations:—

Each year since 1898 has seen a marked improvement of the public health in the Yukon. In the early days of the camp, two diseases seriously menaced the health of new-comers to the Territory—typhoid fever and scurvy. The former is lessening every year; the latter has practically disappeared. During the last six months of 1903, only three cases of typhoid fever were reported as originating in the City of Dawson, and only seven during the year ending June 30th, 1903. Although accurate reports were not kept, it is estimated there were several hundred in 1898. This large falling off in the number of cases of enteric fever has resulted from the adoption of the usual preventive measures—good drainage, complete removal of garbage and excreta from the city limits, and the securing of a pure water supply.

Reports from the creeks (where the miners live) and other outlying districts, however, do not show the same enviable record. During the last half of 1903, 20 cases of enteric fever were brought therefrom to Dawson for treatment, and 42 during the year ending June 30th, 1903. This somewhat unsatisfactory showing may be accounted for by opposite conditions from those which obtain in Dawson: lack of proper drainage, non-removal of excreta, and the consequent contamination in places of a rather poor water supply.

The disappearance of scurvy is due to the disappearance of the causes which produce it—poor food, badly cooked; dirty cabins, poorly lighted; bad ventilation; inattention to personal cleanliness; insufficient exercise; and nostalgia. With the advent of wives and children and accompanying home comforts, with the use of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, scurvy has become practically a disease of the past.

There were two or three threatened epidemics of small-pox, but by the prompt action of the local authorities in placing the patients in an isolated hospital, the exposed persons under quarantine, and enforcing vaccination, the disease was on each occasion quickly stamped out, though at immense cost.

The first outbreak occurred in June, 1900. "The disease was brought in to Dawson (to quote from the M. H.O. at that time) by a man from Seattle arriving on a scow on the 19th of June, 1900. He was never isolated, being quite recovered before the police were able to locate him on the creeks. The disease