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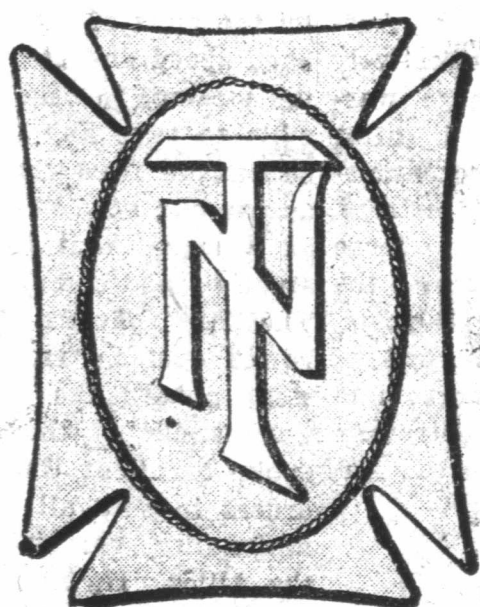
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Almost No Disease in the British Army

Dr. Welch of Johns Hopkins Gives Great Praise to the English Medical Service—Men Who "Funk" Treated—Hospital Established for Those Who Were Called Cowards in Former Wars

Dr. William H. Welch, head of the Johns Hopkins Medical School and head of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who has just returned from England and France where he visited the leading medical men engaged in the care of the civil population as well as those directing hospitals, has learned many important things about all phases of the war. He talked with members of Parliament, members of the Cabinet, army officers, heads of hospitals, and directors of research work.

How England is clearing the air of Zeppelins and the ocean of channel of submarines he learned from high authorities, and he did not overlook an opportunity to find out anything because after he arrived in London a letter he received from the President of the United States enlarged the purpose of his mission, made it scientific in a broader sense than the commission from the Rockefeller Institute indicated.

As head of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, he has the responsibility for establishing in Baltimore, in connection with the Johns Hopkins Medical School, a school of hygiene and public health. For the President of the United States and for the National Academy of Sciences he had the heavier responsibility of looking into what is sometimes referred to as national preparedness for war and peace.

After referring to many old friends he met, including Lord Bryce and Sir William Osler, Dr. Welch chuckled and said:

"I met another old friend. He bears my name because I discovered him. I mean the gaseous bacillus. This bacillus, which I isolated in my work at Hopkins, makes many jagged wounds more dangerous than they would otherwise be. It is carried in the soil and breeds only when deeply imbedded in flesh. The evidence of it is swelling that crackles when touched. A gas is formed in the tissues, and it is of course very painful, and times fatal.

"A distinct new disease is trench fever. This is as distinct as typhoid and somewhat resembles dengue or bonebreak fever. It has many victims. Many die of it, and others are laid up for long periods."

Men Who "Funk" Treated
Men who won't fight, who shiver, get cold, scream, become hysterical when they hear the shots fired, are not branded in this war as cowards, at least not in the British Army. Many of them are men who volunteered who went into army because they wanted to do their bit and because they thought they could do a bit. The first crash of big guns proves that they cannot do anything but shiver with terror. Just as the heroes from the front are nursed back to health for further service, so these men who funk are handled tenderly.

A Johns Hopkins nurse, a woman who dealt with all forms of insanity due to fear while in the Phipps Clinic at Hopkins, has charge of this Shock Hospital. Dr. Welch met many women in many places in England and France who are doing remarkable work, but nothing impressed him more than the work of this nurse. The men get treatment, some time for a year in this hospital in London, and then are sent back to the front and fight like other soldiers.

"In past wars disease has killed more men than bullets," said Dr. Welch, "but now a man has a chance to die of his injuries. Sir Alfred Keogh, Surgeon General of the army said it was not so hard to get sanitary conditions in camp, but to get everything right and then keep everything right even into the trenches was the problem. This is being done. I visited the experiment station and saw the incinerators and the apparatus for sterilizing the water and other devices. The English are an inventive people. This incinerator, which disposes of everything, shows that every soldier is vaccinated against typhoid, para typhoid, a para typhoid b, and those who go to the Eastern field are vaccinated against cholera. The four vaccines are given in one injection. These measures of prevention are successful. There is, of course, a case here or there of typhoid, but practically none.

"I looked into the tuberculosis in the army and found there is a great deal of it.

"I found the United States is popular in France, but I am sorry I cannot say the same about England. There is no open hostility, but dissatisfaction. They do not give us

any credit for our negotiations in connection with the submarines.

114 Submarines Captured
"I met a policeman at Dover and asked him why the boat was late. He said:

"Submarines got a few boats out there; but we will get the submarines. Two out there. We'll get both."

"I was informed by better authority—in fact, by persons in a position to know the exact facts—that nets have captured 114; another authority told me 160 submarines. No rescue is made. I heard of a net 100 miles long, but it seems inconceivable to me.

"The anti-aircraft guns do not seem to be effective. The Zeppelins only come on certain kinds of nights and are always reported on the coast. The aeroplanes now go up very high to be above them by the time they reach London. This plan of meeting them is growing more and more effective all the time."

Dr. Welch, as head of a scientific organization, is one of the men engaged in the problem of studying ways and means of making this country better able to defend itself in time of war by looking out for gaps in the national organization in times of peace. The British, he said, allowed themselves to overlook many things. One thing he mentioned was the making of lenses. Another was the compounding of drugs; the synthetic compounds that are secrets known only to Germans. Enormous strides declared, are being made by the scientific men of England now under the pressure of necessity. The lesson which England has learned so promptly, he thinks, America will heed. He expects to see greater organization and co-ordination here, not only in defense, but in lines of peaceful endeavour.

While in London, Dr. Welch received a letter from President Wilson which helped him to get in touch with men he might not otherwise have seen; although, of course, the American Ambassador had opened many doors to him already, and on every side he received courtesies, and had

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extended to him extraordinary privileges. No one, he said, is welcome in England now who has not a serious reason for being there.

Regarding Public Health

Dr. Welch's primary reason for being in England was to study the methods of training for public health service. What he found out along this line is interesting. Before the war broke out prominent medical men worked out plans for a School of Hygiene and Public Health, and were about to ask for funds for its establishment in connection with the University of London.

Dr. Welch was given access to these plans. The nearest thing to such a school is the required course of nine months for the degree of Doctor of Public Health. In all parts of England, even in villages, Dr. Welch found that the public health officer is a man who has taken this course, and who devotes all his time to the public health and sanitation. In his survey of public health administration he found that even such a small matter as the ventilation of a bedroom in a small town was not overlooked. The inspectors and those above them would insist upon a window being cut out for a room that required it. In handling refuse and everything else he was surprised to note efficiency that is absolutely unknown in America.

"The English are more efficient in the enforcement of public health measures than the Germans," he said, "although it is true that it was the Germans who have made the important discoveries with regard to preventive medicine."

"England," said Dr. Welch, "will not neglect science after the war as she did before it came. Her people have realized their mistake, and it will not be continued when peace comes. The movement to correct it has begun. A council has been organized as a part of the Privy Council, of the Kingdom, and the most eminent scientific men of England are working with it. This is true not only of the industries that bear on the conduct of the war, but upon all industries, bearing on the good of the nation in war and in peace. George E. Hale of the National Academy of Sciences, the astronomer, who went abroad with me, was given, as I was, every opportunity to see what England is doing. We brought back information that will be extremely valuable. I think we will be able to do the thing better than the English, and that our efforts will be better organized and co-ordinated."

Norway and Germany May Yet Fight

Norway is heading directly for war with Germany. It cannot indefinitely endure the brutal aggressions of German submarines. Already a state almost as bad as that of war exists off the Norwegian coast, where German submarines waylay Norwegian passenger and freight ships, as if they belonged to the Allies. Norway has refused to allow the submarines of any nation to use Norwegian waters. Sweden took the same action some months ago. But the Swedish decision hindered British naval action, and Germany regarded it with malignant eyes. The Norwegian prohibition, however, stands in the way of German submarines operating against the Archangel traffic, and Germany therefore takes action of almost a belligerent character. It remains to be seen whether Norway and Sweden can come to an understanding on their secret treaty, binding each not to enter the war under conditions that would bring the two countries into conflict. Sweden is as strongly pro-German as Norway is pro-Allies. Germany has ulterior designs in thus forcing the issue. Either it contemplates a new campaign of submarine frightfulness, and wants Norway's unwilling hospitality, or it designs to bring Sweden into war along with the Central Empires. The Germans know that unless Russia can be cut off from access to Britain and France, the outlook for next Spring is an inundation of splendidly armed Slavs. Desperate needs dictate desperate measures.

WHAT HE DISLIKED

It had been a very tiring case for everybody concerned. The plaintiff and defendant were both countrymen and had to have everything explained to them at least twice.

"Do I understand, my man," said the magistrate at one point, "that the defendant hurled injunctives at you?"

The plaintiff scratched his head wildly. Then slowly a look of understanding dawned in his eyes as he replied:

"No, sir. To tell the truth, it was only bricks he threw at me; but what I complain about was the terrible way he swore at me when they missed."

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