

headache is almost constantly present, perhaps with nausea or vertigo. Fourthly come perturbations of the affective functions; altruism and family affection are lost, egoism comes boldly to the fore in the shape of causeless irritability or rage, causeless fear, or even terror. Fifthly are placed associative troubles or disturbances of the intellectual faculties; retrograde amnesia, or loss of memory for the events preceding the shock, is very common—the patient may forget his own name, his home, the faces of his friends—speech may be lost or halting, intellectual inertia to the point of stupor may be found. Alternatively, indeed more usually, the patient's imagination is unduly active, making him the victim of dreams, nightmares, hallucinations, sleep-walking, even delirium, in which bygone battle scenes are re-enacted. Sixthly and lastly, the authors describe disturbances of the perceptive functions: the patient retains no recollection of the shock itself or of the events following it for a shorter or longer period, and is left with a permanent lacuna in his memories. In addition, he is often unable to concentrate his mind on any subject, such as reading, or is very readily fatigued thereby. From this analysis of the possible symptoms it is clear that the phenomena presented by the victims of the commotional syndrome can be very various, so that the patients may readily be classified under the heading of some predominant trouble, such as blindness, aphemia, or the like. But the large number of cases studied by the authors of this paper seems to justify their proposal to group all instances of nervous shock together under a single heading, and their term 'the commotional syndrome' appears to be as suitable as another."

AMERICAN RED CROSS.

American Red Cross doctors and nurses will be withdrawn from the battlefields of Europe on October 1 because of a lack of funds to keep them there longer, according to a statement made last week at Washington by Miss Mabel T. Boardman, chairman of the Red Cross Relief Commission. It is possible that the two units in Belgium, where the greatest need exists, will be continued, but the other fourteen detachments will be recalled on the date mentioned, when the American fund of \$1,560,000 will be exhausted. In the work of cleaning up Serbia the Red Cross has used 358,783 pounds of sulphur, 700,000 bichloride tablets, 7,000 gallons of kerosene oil, 5,600 pounds of formaldehyde, 12,200 doses of cholera vaccine, 500 whitewash brushes, 70 bathtubs, 50 step-ladders, and 11 automobile trucks.