

Committee by Captain Feilden (Appendix, No. 26), and it includes mustard, cress, radishes and turnips (for the "tops" only). It may prove useful to state that of these, mustard and cress are the most rapid in their growth, while cress grows somewhat less rapidly than mustard. In order to rear these vegetables to the best advantage it would be advisable to provide a few light cucumber frames (2738). Such vegetables must however be regarded mainly as luxuries, dependence being chiefly placed upon the antiscorbutic character of the ordinary dietary, aided by the valuable properties of lime juice.

Some evidence has likewise been incidentally laid before the Committee of the value of the dandelion plant in curing scurvy in the Crimea (5424), and of the leaf of a plant called "spekboom" (*Portulacaria afra*) in curing this disease at the Cape (8528).

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We have referred to the obvious advantages that would be derived from the substitution of concentrated preparations of lime or lemon juice for the crude juice. It seems of the greatest importance that the value of these preparations should be thoroughly tested; in the first place, with respect to their curative value, and then, if these trials prove satisfactory, with respect to their prophylactic value. Attention may in the first instance most hopefully be directed to the extract of lime juice and to the citric and other acids contained in it.

We have also had occasion to refer to the incompleteness of the present knowledge of the nature of scurvy. The essential nature of the disease, the exact abnormal conditions which are present, and even the variations from the standard of health in the performance of many important functions during its existence are as yet unknown. Investigation of these several points is likewise required, and might with advantage include an examination of the effects on the excretions of many articles of food reputed to be antiscorbutic.

The details of the observations and experiments required for extending our knowledge on those subjects may be left to any competent investigator who may assume, or be directed to undertake, the investigation. The field of observation, however, is limited, while the objects to be attained are of the greatest value not to science only, but to the interests of the human race generally, and especially to those of this nation. We believe that no Department of the Government of this country but that to which this paper is about to be submitted can afford the requisite opportunities for attaining the objects referred to.