

APPENDIX No. 2

with the syphilitic virus, and this may be three weeks in developing or showing itself; it is not necessarily on his penis; it is contracted occasionally in the most innocent way, from towels, drinking cups, or anything of that kind. It may be on the tongue, on the front of the tongue or the back of the tongue, or on the eyelid or anywhere, and there may be nothing visible without a very minute examination—an ordinary examination would not detect anything of that at all. It may be a long time, several weeks, before the next symptoms come, and these may be indicated by rashes on the skin which are the most easily detected signs. Afterwards, there is a long interval when there is nothing apparent, in which, whether the man is in service or not, will ultimately develop the third stage of the disease. So that in either of these intervals it is quite possible that the disease might escape detection on a man after his ordinary enlistment.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Do you think it wise to refuse him a pension in that case?—A. I think that if it could be determined at all that his condition was aggravated or made worse by the service, that ought to be taken into consideration.

Q. Would he be liable to it in such service as we understand they have to go through?—A. No, not necessarily. A man might go through without any aggravation whatever of the syphilis.

By Mr. Nickle:

Q. Could a man have syphilis and not know it?—A. Certainly.

Q. Could a man truthfully answer, "No," to a recruiting officer or medical officer examining him prior to his attestation, when asked the question whether or not he had syphilis—I mean so far as the man was concerned?—A. Certainly he might truthfully say no.

Q. Do over-exertion and exposure and undue strain have a tendency to make a tertiary manifestation that would not be made manifest in ordinary life?—A. Not in my experience.

Q. What do the books say on that?—A. I do not know that there is any special reference to that in the books.

Q. I have read a treatise on it by a pathologist of the Rockefeller Institute in which he said that malnutrition or exposure of a man to unusual physical strain had a tendency to break down his physical power of resistance, so that the disease manifested itself more readily than it would under ordinary circumstances?—A. That is a very general ground of course.

Q. What would you say as to that?—A. I would answer as I did before, that in my experience it made no difference except perhaps in the nervous system cases.

Q. How long have you been examining the records in regard to the cases of syphilitic soldiers?—A. I went overseas in May, 1915, and have been more or less concerned with it ever since, but I do not base my knowledge of syphilis on that, for I have been practising among syphilitics for over forty years.

Q. There is a great difference among soldiers, as to the inadequate payments to men suffering from tertiary manifestation of the disease, who apparently have no knowledge of their having had the disease when they went overseas, and to dysentery, epilepsy, paresis, locomotor ataxia, and those things have developed very rapidly, and they allege that the pensions given by the board are inadequate in reference to the disability?—A. I do not know, as far as I understand, that the pensions are based on the disability at all; they are based on a man's ability or disability to gain a livelihood on the open market of the world, which is the only single foundation one could get.

Q. Let me put a case; a man goes overseas not knowing that he had syphilis; he breaks down through overstrain, and epilepsy or locomotor ataxia develops; the board says, "We do not give you a full pension, because the seeds of syphilis were in you when you went overseas; you were syphilitic." What would you say to that argument?

[Col. I. H. Cameron, M.B.]