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MEDICAL NOTES OF A TRIP TO CUBA.

BY

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Last Autumn Sir William Van Horne asked me to accompany him on a trip to Cuba, promising me that I should see Cuba in all its phases. We left Philadelphia on November 8th and reached Santiago on the 12th. Santiago we found to be quite a model town owing to the wise rule of General Wood. The town is an example to all towns in this or other countries, for, from being the pest-hole of the West Indies it has become a sanatorium. Drains have been made and streets covered with asphalt, a sanitary corps keeps the streets clean, men pushing small waggons pick up every scrap of dirt, and every hour or so the sanitary carts come along and carry off the collections. This, however, is not done at the expense of the City but funds are derived, I believe, from the Customs duties.

Yellow fever has been entirely abolished, no case has occurred for over 18 months and if the mosquito theory of the transmission of the Yellow fever is true, no case can originate there and if yellow fever is seen in the future it will be due to importation. The Santiago Province protects itself by quarantine from Havana where yellow fever exists all the year round.

I think it has been now proved beyond doubt by the experiments of Drs. Walter Reed, Carroll and Agramonte, that the mosquito is the carrier of the Fever parasite. It seems that the parasite of the disease, as in malaria, undergoes a definite cycle of development in the body of the mosquito before the latter is capable of conveying infection. This period appears to be not less than 12 days. A number of soldiers, doctors and others, submitted to the test of being bitten by mosquitos who had already fed on yellow fever patients, and 85.71 per cent. were