

"At the London American luncheon at the American Club Dr. Woods Hutchinson said the deadliest enemy to the soldier was not bullets, but streptococcus. Thirty years ago the regular ratio of deaths from diseases in war compared with deaths on the field from wounds was seven to one. The English Royal Army Medical Corps on the western front under the leadership of Sir Alfred Keogh had more than reversed that ratio. There was now only about one death from disease compared with five on the field of battle. It was largely due to this brilliant result that the terrible struggle was able to go nearly three years with such comparatively little signs of exhaustion in the man power on either side. In the present war on the western front 95.97 per cent. of the wounded recovered; that was to say, of those who were not so terribly lacerated that they died at once or within 24 hours, only about three or four in one hundred died."

Away back in the days of Homer, the work of the physician was noted, for he sings in the Iliad:

The physician skilled our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the nation's weal.

SALVARSAN AND NEOSALVARSAN.

A comparative study of salvarsan and neosalvarsan in the treatment of syphilis is reported on by W. B. Trimble and J. J. Rothwell, New York (*Journal A. M. A.*, Dec. 30th, 1916), who state that before commencing the examination they knew from experience that there was practically no difference in the therapeutic efficiency of the two drugs. The report is based on the treatment of 110 patients, to whom 397 injections were given, and on whom 337 Wassermann tests were performed. They consider this sufficient from which to draw conclusions, which are given as follows: "1. A course of four injections of either salvarsan or neosalvarsan is inadequate treatment. 2. A series of injections of salvarsan, either old or new, not followed by mercurial treatment, produces extremely few negative serum reactions. 3. From four to six salvarsan or neosalvarsan injections, even when followed by mercury, produce only a comparatively small percentage of negative serum results. 4. According to this study neosalvarsan is superior to salvarsan, being much easier of administration, less likely to cause severe reactions, and producing a greater percentage of negative results." Elaborate descriptions of the methods used are given.