

and the two had a consultation which lasted some 30 or 40 minutes, and was held in voluble Spanish over the bedside of my friend, who understood and spoke Spanish perfectly. During the consultation innumerable cigarettes were consumed, and the patient was surrounded by a halo of smoke.

After a time the consultation was transferred to the next room, and my friend told me that the hospital doctor said that he had yellow fever, but the other held to his first opinion. Having the carriage at the door, I called to one of the doctors, who spoke French, and said I was going to take my friend to the hospital whatever the disease was. They submitted to my decision with Spanish politeness (for a Spaniard would rather be accused of murder than impoliteness), and I took my friend to the hospital, where the doctors fought out the diagnosis for several days; in fact, until my friend was out of danger, as they said if he lived over the fifth day it is not yellow fever. My friend told me that whatever they considered the disease to be they were treating him for yellow fever, and the treatment is very simple,—purge in the morning, again at noon, and again at night, and do the same next day. My friend recovered in ten days, and to this day no one knows positively what disease he suffered from.

Apparently, as the diagnosis of yellow fever in Cuba depends entirely upon the presence or absence of albumin in the urine, many mistakes occur, for it is well known that numbers of cases of yellow fever have no albumin in the urine. Again, many cases of yellow fever are, I believe, so mild that they are unrecognisable. The doctors in Cuba, except in Havana, do not seem alive to the blood examination in malaria and typhoid fever, if they used this oftener they would, I believe, exclude more cases of so called yellow fever.

Havana is a beautiful city, but still undrained, but they are now undertaking a huge system of drainage and paving, which will, it is said, when completed, make Havana a veritable sanatorium.

Cuba is a wonderful country for the raising of all forms of food. Before the war good beef could easily be got very cheaply, and immense herds fattened on the rich guinea and parana grass, which grows so luxuriantly in the province of Santiago. As a rule, the cows give but little milk, and butter is not made in any quantity; the feed goes to beef, not milk. Imported butter in tins is used everywhere, and also tinned cream and condensed milk. Oleo-margarine is very popular because it never gets tainted. In the hospitals all the milk I saw was boiled immediately on receipt; they do not seem to have yet introduced Pasteurisation. I several times had my attention drawn to the thick yellow crust which formed on the boiled milk, and which was pronounced beautiful cream. All kinds of fruits are most abundant,