

lium do not absorb fluids, while in the other form the reverse is the case. Hence the author believes that the syphilitic virus after copulation readily finds its way into the cavum uteri and passes directly into the blood without epithelial or lymphatic reaction. In some cases an ovum may be infected from the contaminated male principle. This hypothesis will explain the latency so frequently seen in female syphilis, the first outbreak often appearing many years after infection as late tertiary syphilis.—*Medical Record*.

THE VALUE OF MEDICINE TO THE ARMY.

In days of old the civil population cared for the wounded after a battle in such wise as they were able to. In modern warfare there is practically no civil population in the fighting area. The houses are usually destroyed and the wounded are so numerous that no ordinary civilian population could possibly care for them. Ambroise Paré, in discussing the care of the wounded in the sixteenth century, gives instructions to "sweetly cut the throats of such as are seriously wounded, so as to end their sufferings." Even if the dictates of humanity at the present time permitted the practice advocated by Paré, it would not be good policy from a strictly military point of view, for a very large proportion of the wounded can be restored to duty. In the German army it is said that 92 per cent. of the wounded recover, and where twenty thousand casualties occur in a comparatively small area within a few hours' time, as has happened frequently in the present war, the restoration to duty of this 92 per cent. becomes a serious element in preserving the organization at the front. Moreover, as pointed out by Colonel T. H. Goodwin, of the British medical service, the removal of the wounded from the field is a very important factor in preserving the morale of the surviving troops. Fresh troops would undoubtedly be affected most disastrously by the sight of the ground cumbered with the number of wounded which collect in a battle lasting several days. The value of the medical service to the army in the relation to the wounded is therefore clearly apparent:.

The most valuable service rendered by medicine, however, is the prevention of disease; the present war has been unique in this respect. In the British war in South Africa, 57,000 cases of enteric fever occurred, with 8,000 deaths. In that campaign, sickness was responsible for the loss of 86,000 men by death and invaliding. In 1802, 50,000 troops were lost by yellow fever out of the 58,000 in the San Domingan expedition. In 1812, typhus fever killed 25,000 out of 28,000 troops, and in the war with Turkey, one army which left Russia 100,000 strong, left 85,000 dead from disease in Turkey. The German army in 1870-71 had