

mention of it in the above passage appears to be a poetic use of some traveller's story.

In the foregoing pages I have attempted to describe the state of knowledge of medicine and surgery at the time of the Trojan War. But let me say in conclusion, though it is superfluous, that one does not read Homer for medical information. We read him for the glory and tragedy of the events he narrates—for the scene between Hector and Andromache, for the story and ideals of young Glaucos, for the impassioned oratory of Achilles, for the tragic fate of Hector, for the piteous appeal of Priam. Though the beliefs and knowledge of the early Greeks differed greatly from those of to-day, the heart beat to the same emotions and the springs of conduct were identical. As Hector said: "It is not inglorious to die whilst defending his country, but his wife shall be safe and his children, and his house and inheritance shall be uninjured." Then, as now, "the fates have granted an enduring heart to man." Then, as now, "the race of men is as that of leaves, for some leaves the wind strews on the earth, but the verdant wood puts forth others, and so one generation of men springs up and another passes away."

PARATYPHOID INFECTIONS.

Jay D. Whitham (*Military Surgeon*, November, 1916) emphasizes certain points concerning paratyphoid infections: 1. The disease is more common than is generally supposed; many cases with typhoidal symptoms, but negative Widal reactions, being paratyphoid fever.

2. Paratyphoid infections are extremely variable in their manifestations.

3. Carriers probably play the most important role in the transmission of the disease.

4. Endemics resembling food poisoning, due to paratyphoid bacilli, must be much more common than is generally supposed. The trench diarrhea of Europe is an example.

5. The disease, though usually mild, may cause extremely severe complications, even death.

6. Considerable evidence has been submitted by competent observers to show that antityphoid vaccination does not sufficiently protect against paratyphoid infections and that a polyvalent vaccine should be used if such protection is necessary.

7. The fighting forces in Europe have suffered greatly from paratyphoid infections which, it is possible, might have been prevented had polyvalent vaccine been used.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*