

ALERT.*Complement.*

Number of officers and men ..
 Number lent from "Discovery"
 who wintered in the "Alert" ..
 Total number who wintered in the
 "Alert"

Officers.	Men.	Total.
13	49	62
1	7	8
14	56	70

Cases of Scurvy.

Number of cases among men of
 the "Alert"
 Number among men of "Discovery"
 who wintered in the "Alert" ..
 Total number among the men who
 wintered in the "Alert"

Officers.	Men.	Total.
3	37	40
0	5	5
3	42	45

Deaths from Scurvy.

Number of deaths among men of
 the "Alert"
 Number among men of the
 "Discovery" who wintered in
 the "Alert"
 Total number among the men who
 wintered in the "Alert"

Officers.	Men.	Total.
0	2	2
0	1	1
0	3	3

DISCOVERY.*Complement.*

Number of officers and men ..
 Number lent to the "Alert" before
 the winter of 1875-76, and who
 wintered in the "Alert" ..
 Total number who wintered in the
 "Discovery"

Officers.	Men.	Total.
13	47	60
1	7	8
12	40	52

Cases of Scurvy.

Number of cases among men of
 "Discovery"
 Number among men of "Discovery"
 who wintered in the "Alert" ..
 Total number among the men who
 wintered in the "Discovery" ..

Officers.	Men.	Total.
2	18	20
0	5	5
2	13	15

Deaths from Scurvy.

Number of deaths among the men
 of the "Discovery"
 Number among men of the
 "Discovery" who wintered in
 the "Alert"
 Total number among the men who
 wintered in the "Discovery"

Officers.	Men.	Total.
0	2	2
0	1	1
0	1	1

The men of both ships were during the winter subjected in nearly equal degree to the effects of confinement, dampness, cold and extreme changes of temperature; the men of the "Alert" experienced a somewhat more prolonged absence of sun light, and a decidedly greater deficiency in the quantity of fresh meat than the men of the "Discovery"; while the men of the latter ship were probably subjected to a more impure atmosphere than the men of the former. All of these conditions operate prejudicially to health, and reduce physical strength. They may thereby favour the development of scurvy, in common with other forms of disease; but the evidence given to the Committee is pointedly opposed to the opinion that they could produce scurvy in men subsisting on a diet in which the vegetable element was fairly well represented, such as that used on board the two ships during the winter.* Were they in any sense essential antecedents to this disease, the majority of the cases would certainly have occurred while they were in action, and not after they had for several weeks ceased to operate, and conditions of a totally different character been substituted for them.† That the position should have been assigned to them of essential causes, or even of the most important of the accessory causes, seems due to the fact that in the history of this outbreak there were certain circumstances of a remarkable and noteworthy description for which an explanation appeared most readily to be found among the conditions that existed on board the ships during the winter. These circumstances are: (1) the great disparity between the number of cases in the men of the two ships, and (2) the unusually early occurrence of several cases after what is generally regarded as the essential antecedent of scurvy came into operation.

* 4994; 4910-4912; 5307; 5351-5358; 5437-5450; 5608-5606; 5619-5620,

† See experience of the Austrian Ship "Tegetthoff," in "New Lands within the Arctic Circle," by Julius Payer, Vol. i., p. 313 (1876).