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EDITORIAL

ARMY SANITATION.

The value of army sanitation has been revealed in this war in a very outstanding way. This is more particularly noticed in the British army operating in France and Flanders. Dr. Bruce, who quite recently returned from Europe, speaks of the work done by Dr. Nasmith in these terms.

“Col. Nasmith, former director of laboratories for Toronto, sent the first report to the British Headquarters on the gases used when the Germans broke through at Langemarck. His opinion has since proved to be correct, and his recommendation the best means for counteracting their effect. His suggestions were immediately adopted by the War Office. The work which Col. Nasmith and his associates are doing at the front is recognized by the British Headquarters as invaluable, and the city of Toronto should be very proud of him.”

He has associated with him, Dr. Arthur Ellis, son of Prof. W. H. Ellis, of the University of Toronto, and Dr. Rankin, of Calgary. Both of these have the rank of captain. He has the best equipped laboratory at the front, and has charge of the sanitation for the entire first British army. He was only a few miles away from Ypres when the gas was first used. The gas forced the Turcos to retreat and the Canadians had to fill the gap.

The excellent work that has been accomplished by this corps of laboratory workers is made manifest by the health of the troops, and the absence of such diseases as typhoid and typhus fever, cholera, diarrhæas. Though rats are very plentiful, there have been no cases of the plague. Malaria has also been kept under control, through some of the Canadians were carriers. Dr. Nasmith quickly recognized the gas as chlorine, and urged the use of respirators. Dr. Nasmith is a chemist and bacteriologist.