

The Canada Lancet

Vol. XLVIII. TORONTO, AUGUST, 1915

No. 12

EDITORIAL

GAS POISONING IN WAR.

Dr. R. D. Rudolf, of Toronto, who has been on medical service at the front, and who has returned on account of temporary ill health, states that gas poisoning has not proven as fatal and serious as was at first feared. When the soldier does not receive too heavy a dose, he makes a good recovery. Dr. Rudolf says that out of hundreds of cases that came into the hospital he did not see a single death.

Dr. Rudolf did not see the severer cases, as these had to be placed in some hospital nearer the front; but even in these cases the death-rate was not high. Chlorine gas was the one used in the cases that came under Dr. Rudolf's notice. The chance of recovery is much better when no other poisonous gas has been mixed with the chlorine.

When the dosage is large the irritation is extreme, and asphyxiation may result immediately. When this does not occur and the dose has been a heavy one there results extensive bronchitis, and a marked degree of prostration. There are frequently many blotches and purple spots on the body.

THE DOMINION HOSPITAL COMMISSION.

The "Hospital Commission" appointed by the Dominion Government has a large and serious task. Upon it devolves the responsibility of making adequate hospital provision for sick and wounded Canadian soldiers invalided home from the front. Already many Canadian communities have received back from the front cripples or disabled soldiers who only a few months ago marched away full of health and hope. Of the ten thousand members of the Canadian contingents whose names have been in the casualty lists about seven thousand are wounded. Sir William Osler says that about 60 per cent. of wounded recover sufficiently to return to the front. Roughly, then, about 3,000 Canadian soldiers have already been wounded beyond recovery to war fitness. British despatches say that Canadian wounded are distributed