

men, Constable Devlin, of "E" Division. This man was the victim of *asthma*, from which disease he had suffered for over five years, and with which he was suffering when he underwent his medical examination and joined the force. The climate of this country did nothing but aggravate the malady, and he, at length, became so bad that it was necessary to invalid him. In this connection, I may be excused for mentioning the case of Constable Zwick, of "C" Division, who is one of this years' recruits. He also is, and has been for over eight years, the victim of the same disease. He states that at his medical examination he informed the examining physician of this fact, and was told that the climate of this country was an excellent one for asthmatics, and that he would not be troubled with it here. His disease has grown perceptibly worse since his arrival. From my observation and experience, I do not regard this country as a sanitarium for asthmatics, and would respectfully recommend that in future, examining physicians be strictly cautioned on this point.

On September 20th, I was ordered to Fort Walsh, where Surgeon Kittson was prostrated by illness and remittent or mountain fever prevalent. I returned to Fort Macleod on October 20th. During my absence Staff Sergeant Lauder, "E" Division, discharged my duties well and efficiently.

Quite a number of Indians, chiefly Bloods, Blackfeet and North Piegans, have been under my treatment during the year. The diseases prevalent among them were for the most part ophthalmia, phthisis and other chest affections, and venereal; phthisis and chest affections were found to be especially common among the females, and it was rare to find a woman over thirty years old with sound lungs.

I would now beg to call your attention to a few reforms which I think might be instituted with advantage to the sanitary condition of the fort.

The facilities for washing among the men are very inadequate. Under the present system there are two or three small wash-basins in a barrack room, and all the men have to use them in common. In the summer they can bathe in the river, but in the winter that resource is denied them. The fact of twenty or thirty men performing all their ablutions in two or three small basins is not only very uncleanly but decidedly dangerous. I would therefore recommend the establishment of a lavatory in connection with each troop room; said lavatories to contain two or three baths and a liberal supply of basins.

I would also advise that the present system of latrines inside the fort be abolished, and in their stead that there be two earth closets for night use. For the day, a large latrine might be established at some convenient place outside the stockade.

The building at present used as a hospital is unfit for habitation in the summer and autumn when there is any wind; the dust is deposited half an inch thick over everything; in the winter it is almost an impossibility to keep it warm, and in the spring it is untenable on account of being deluged with mud and water, and the exceeding probability of the roof falling in. In my opinion, a new hospital is an absolute necessity, and I would respectfully recommend that one be built at the earliest possible moment.

I enclose an appendix containing the diseases treated during the year, number of cases and average duration of each disease. A return, showing the medicines received, expended and in stock, will be forwarded in a few days.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

GEO. F. KENNEDY, M.B.,

Surgeon, N. W. M. P., Fort McLeod.

Lieut.-Col. MacLEOD,

Commissioner, N. W. M. P.

Recommended,

JOHN G. KITTSON, M.D.,

Surgeon, N.-W.M.P.

Forwarded,

JAMES F. MacLEOD,

Commissioner.