

known and paved the way for the greater triumphs of the present gigantic conflict.

The figures in connection with typhoid in South Africa have often been quoted. There were nearly 58,000 cases of typhoid with 8,022 deaths. In fact more died from typhoid alone than fell in the legitimate way in warfare by the bullets of the enemy. Eight thousand were killed in that way. Nineteen thousand soldiers were invalided home from South Africa as a result of typhoid. Thus the army lost through this one hidden enemy, the typhoid bacillus, 27,000 men.

In the Spanish-American war the United States sent into Cuba something like 117,000 non-commissioned officers and men. One-fifth of them fell ill of typhoid and 1,600 died.

Typhoid fever has been the bane of armies since the middle of the nineteenth century, but Sir Almroth Wright's discovery bids fair to banish it almost completely.

In this connection the most recent report from the Surgeon-General's office at Washington, published in the Journal American Medical Association, August 7th, gives striking figures of the efficiency of typhoid inoculation. Typhoid inoculation was made compulsory in the U. S. Army in September, 1911. By the end of the first quarter of 1912 practically all the U. S. army, in various parts of the world, were inoculated—an army numbering 92,000, and which had on the average about 350 cases of typhoid a year. In 1912, there were 27 cases of typhoid; in 1913, four cases; in 1914, seven cases; first half of 1915, one case. Only in two instances of the eleven cases, in 1913 and 1914, had the complete course of vaccination been administered. The complete course consists of three inoculations; and vaccination against smallpox is performed at the time the first dose of vaccination against typhoid is given.

This measure is now in use in the armies of Great Britain, France, Germany and Austria, and is probably being used to a certain extent in the armies of Russia and Italy.

An interesting item appeared in the *Medical Officer* the other day. It was to the effect that the Medical Officer of Health of Bristol, England, had recently vaccinated against smallpox the originator of the Anti-Vaccination Society.

It is unfortunate that vaccination is applied to inoculation against typhoid, as, in the lay mind, the two may become confused.

When the great war becomes cleaned up, there will be other triumphs for preventive medicine.