

**ARMY DOCTORS AND TYPHOID**

(Int. Med Congress.)

An important discussion on anti-typhoid inoculation occupied the attention of the Naval and Military Section of the Congress at the Royal Military College, Millbank, and some important contributions to the subject were made, particularly in regard to the inoculation against typhoid of British soldiers in India. Surgeon-General Sir Launelotte Gubbins presided.

Colonel Sir William Leishman (Royal Army Medical Corps), Professor of Pathology, Royal Army Medical College, said that since he had the honor, in 1907, of acting as reporter on this subject at the International Congress of Hygiene at Berlin, anti-typhoid inoculation had come to occupy a very important place in military medicine. At that time it was very far from being generally accepted as a practical measure, although its protective value was recognized by most bacteriologists. Now he thought it might be said to be generally regarded as one of the most powerful weapons in the fight against typhoid fever.

In the Army they had now accumulated a very considerable body of experience in the practical use of the vaccine. They were the first to adopt the method as a preventive measure on a large scale, and, although its general acceptance had been a slow process, and it still remained on a purely voluntary basis, it was now widely taken advantage of by the soldiers, and had few, if any, strong opponents in either the combatant or the medical branches of the Army. The Army Council had given every support to their endeavors to secure as many volunteers as possible.

On the whole, he regarded the average duration of the protection conferred by their system as two years, and he thought that after this time had elapsed the individual, if still exposed to the danger of infection, should be reinoculated.

With the Army in India in 1890 there were 1,253 cases of typhoid and 332 deaths. Anti-typhoid inoculation was reintroduced in India as a voluntary measure in 1905; but it was not until the year 1909 that the number of men inoculated became sufficiently large to influence the general statistics. From that year there had been a steady and very remarkable decline, the figures for each successive year constituting a fresh low record until in 1912 they found that there had been only 118 cases of typhoid fever in the whole of