

FATALITIES LESS THRU SANITATION

Unhealthy Man is Encouraged to Army, Says Dr. Amyot.

AT CANADIAN CLUB

Diseases Can Be Controlled—Wounded Have Better Chance.

Some of the problems that must be solved when men congregate in war were discussed by Dr. John A. Amyot of the Toronto University, who is also in charge of the laboratories of the provincial board of health, at the luncheon of the Canadian Club yesterday. It was made plain that bacteria are not the only danger which confronts an army. "Sanitation in War" was his subject. He treated it from many angles. "In the British army organization one of the most important branches of its work is the army medical service," he said.

"They look after the sick and the wounded and try to stop the spread of infection. A sick soldier is an embarrassment. Once he starts out humanitarianism practically ceases. They are treated as well as they can be under the circumstances, but the soldier is there to fight, and if need be to lose his life for the empire."

The doctor illustrated his point by referring to the recent torpedo attack when by performing a heroic effort two other ships were lost in the North Sea. Now an order is out which says that when one ship is attacked others must not crowd in to lend assistance.

"Back Fighting Again." The sick and wounded are treated in the hope that they will get back to the fighting line again. When a man is wounded in the line he lies there. When he can be got at, he is taken from the line and cared for, but he may be in such a position that he cannot be recovered. That is the risk taken. The object of sanitation is to bring men back to the trenches. A wounded man needs attention.

"In the old days the mortality from disease was terrific. There was a time when 90 per cent. of the wounded died. At present that horror is reduced. The present method reduces that figure immensely. Death from wounds in the lower extremities is now as low as five per cent, and many are able to get back to fight and be useful. Immense improvement has been made in the way of helping the wounded."

Proper Recruiting Helps. "As for infectious diseases, they always come when men get together. In order to prevent disease we must have proper recruiting. Sometimes men grumble when they are rejected, but it is humanitarian to refuse them." The speaker gave reasons why it is to a man's advantage to be refused when he is found unfit for service.

"Soldiers are to be driven absolutely to the limit," he said. "When you think you can go no farther you are compelled to go on for perhaps another 12 hours or even more. It is hard enough for the man who is physically fit before he started. He spoke of why a man with a broken arch should not go. Poor teeth and affected eyesight would be a man's own disadvantage, although he might feel in perfect condition otherwise. "A man with a weak heart cannot go to war," he said. "A man with a contracted chest cannot carry 60 pounds on his back. We must find out if he has a skin disease. We want a healthy man. He must be between the age of 18 and 45. Having secured that the healthy man the army medical service is prepared to look after him. A medical officer is in charge of each unit."

"In battle the medical service has another service to perform," said Dr. Amyot. He traced the work done by the medical service from the trenches to the permanent hospital. Stretcher bearers pick the men up. They are carried to the nearest shelter. A second corps convey them to the dressing station. From there they are taken to the clearing hospitals, and last to the general hospitals. Then they go home. That is the arrangement for the wounded. "The general order is that no operation shall be performed on the field," he said.

Water Supply Dangerous. As to infectious water supply was mentioned chiefly. All open water is assumed to be impure. Typhoid is caused by poor water, and this disease is extremely dangerous. "During the Balkan war Asiatic cholera got in the lines. It is now in the Austrian lines. The mounds of the men is gone when cholera breaks out. This spreads most by water and flies. "Dysentery causes great trouble among soldiers. Bubonic plague is dangerous, and from 50 to 80 per cent. of the affected die. It spreads easily. Another disease which must be controlled is typhus fever. This is different from typhoid. Smallpox is another fear."

Can Be Controlled. "If sanitary laws can be carried out these can be controlled. The work of sanitation is to stop the lines of transmission. In war all kinds of men are engaged. In France all kinds have gone. We may have to go. The fact that all kinds and classes are mingled together adds to the difficulty. This war is different from any other in that respect."

"We have, fortunately, a means of fighting some of these diseases. Vaccination is a great preventive." The speaker gave an idea of the seriousness

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ON A CHARGE OF ARSON

Fire Result of Religious Persecution Was His Defence.

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FOUNDRIES ARE BUSY

RECRUITING STOPPED

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