

and in South Africa during the recent war, the difficulties in the compilation of accurate records, the impossibility in many instances of getting data which are strictly comparable, and the unsatisfactory conditions under which the inoculations were so often performed, have tended to impair materially the authority of the published results. When, however, the numbers comprising any statistical record are large and the separate groups contained in it are comparatively numerous, such fallacies certainly tend to exert less influence, and the inference carried becomes proportionally stronger. This, of course, holds good in respect to the statistics of anti-typhoid inoculation.

If we refer to the records dealing with inoculation among the British regiments serving in India as published in the Army Medical Reports, we find that amongst 15,384 men inoculated during the years 1899 to 1901 in various parts of the Indian Empire, the incidence of enteric fever was 0.8 per cent. as against 1.5 in the uninoculated, and amongst the 2,260 attacks comprised in the series, the case mortality in the inoculated was 15.6 per cent., as against 26.6 per cent. in those who had not undergone the treatment. Again, the combined results in a variety of military hospitals in South Africa as furnished in a report by Dr. R. W. Dodgson, the special commissioner appointed to inquire into their working, show that in respect to 4,138 cases of enteric fever, the case mortality amongst the inoculated was 8.2 per cent., whereas it was 15.1 in those who were not inoculated. In this instance the reduction in mortality was almost 50 per cent., and in the case of the staffs of three of the hospitals—viz., Nos. 8, 9, and 10—general hospitals—located in Bloemfontein during the epidemic of 1900, the reduction obtained was nearly a three-fold one, but in this instance the number of attacks, viz., 109, was but small. An investigation as to the value of Wright's method of anti-typhoid inoculation was undertaken by the College of Physicians last year at the request of the War Office, and a special committee of the College was appointed to inquire into it. Careful examination of the whole of the evidence available has tended to show that not only is a considerable degree of protection conferred by the inoculation, but that it is also capable of exercising a mitigating influence upon the severity of attack. Further investigations are now being undertaken with the object of effecting an improvement in the vaccine and of extending our knowledge as to the best and most appropriate dosage, and encouraging as the results up to date undoubtedly are, it may be confidently expected that with additional light on these points still better results may be looked for in the future.