Physicians Sacrifice Lives Fighting Against Disease

Noted American Specialists Succumb—Doctors Dying Nearly Every Month—A Long Record of Martyrdom.

A FEW weeks ago one of the students of that dreaded disease, cerebro-spinal meningitis, made a visit to Ellis Island, New York. He was in search of more data on that deadly affection. A few suspected cases were being held in the detention quarters of the immigration bureau, and he was anxious to see them. So little is known of the disease that every case offers new opportunities for laboratory study. This doctor examined the suspects, went back to his laboratory, and a few days later was stricken by the very malady that he had been fighting for years. The disease that he had been fighting so long had turned upon him. He was dead within 48 hours after he was attacked. All the knowledge that he and his colleagues had gained in the last half dozen years proved useless and helpless in stopping the coming of death.

Simon Flexner, the world's greatest authority on cerebro-spinal meningitis and kindred diseases, was summoned, and did all that was in his power. Serums that have proven effective in thousands and thousands of cases gave no relief from the steady advance of death. There was no response to its powers in the nerves and muscles of the man who was at last lying in the grip of his enemy. Many New York specialists watched by his bedside and fought the destroyer with all the weapons at their command. At the last the strange malady had claimed its vengeance. The work of the dying man and his co-laborers had saved thousands, but in the end he was unable to save himself.

A sort of superstition has grown up among physicians. The feeling is common among them that the man who specializes on any particular disease is liable to become its victim some time or another in life. His own particular specialty is looked upon as being especially fatal to him if he is ever stricken. According to this superstition the cancer authority is more than liable to die of cancer, the tuberculosis specialist must guard against consumption, and the appendicitis expert must make up his mind that sooner or later he must lie on the operating tables where so many have lain under his knife. The death of the meningitis student caused little wonder among his fellow-physicians. Their only speculation was as to who might be the next to pay the price that is so often required of the student and the investigator.

Case of St. Louis Physician.

Some years ago there was a specialist on mental diseases in St. Louis who was recognized as one of the nation's authorities on insanity. He was a lecturer of more than local note on his favorite subject and his textbooks are still found in the libraries of the older physicians. Some time ago he dropped out of sight. His friends speak of him now as one who is dead. He is lost to the world of science of which he was once a part. His mind gave way under the strain just as he himself had seen so many minds give way. Insanity, hopeless, stubborn, incurable insanity, finally claimed him. The man who has been able to restore so many minds to their normal workings was unable to save himself from the bars and the straitjacket of the lunatic. It is said that he never suspected the coming of his malady. He is now in an eastern sanatorium. Most of his old acquaintances in St. Louis and vicinity are under the impression that he is dead.

The physician has often forfeited his life in his search for the causes that lie back of the most elusive diseases. Something of the same spirit that started the Crusaders of old in their march upon the Saracen is found in the breast of the modern investigator of baffling and obscure diseases. The big battles of the race are now being fought out in the laboratories and in the world's operating-rooms. The only battercies that are brought into action are the batteries of shining telescopes. The only steel that is clashed is the scalpel. Instead of fighting the Saracen and the infidel the crusader of today fights the bacilli and the bacteria, the germ and tiny organisms that are far more deadly than the scimitar or the slim brown lances of the desert warriors whom Richard met.

Every year adds a new martyr to the long list of medical men who have died in their search for the mysteries that lie back of the most baffling diseases. Many of these martyrs live crippled for the rest of their days by some affection, some combination of chemicals or by the aftermath of some malady that has finally turned upon them. Hopeless wrecks of once strong men live on uselessly and without hope, drawn and twisted by the effects of the X-ray. They were able to cure others with these weird rays, but they gave up their own vitality to do so.

Last July Doctor Kassabian, of New York, died of skin cancer brought on by the X-ray. He had been burned time after time by their mysterious radiance. He had been dying for years. In the years that he was slowly wasting away under the inroads of the malady he was giving relief to thousands. He saw that he was doomed ten years before his death. In common with practically every X-ray man in the world he had been suffering at various times from burns caused by this mysterious energy that is given off by the Roentgen ray. He always maintained the greatest secrecy concerning his own condition. He realized that it was a part of the price that he had paid for his ability to cure the cancers of others.

In 1902 he came to the conclusion that he was doomed to die sooner or later from the effects of his burns. In 1908 two of his fingers were amputated. Skin cancer had begun to appear upon his left hand and later it began to move slowly up his arm. Last year it was found that the ray-induced cancer had reached the glands under his left arm. Doctor Chalmers da Costa, of the Jefferson Medical College, was called to New York to perform an operation. The ray irritated flesh would not heal after the glands were removed. Kassabian, who had fought cancer so long, was slowly sinking and still another operation was decided upon. The glands on the right side of the chest were removed. It was useless. In the meanwhile the whole of his left side had become affected, and there was nothing that could be done.

Thomas A. Edison lost a valuable assistant because of similar burns some years ago. Still another death in the medical profession, brought about by these powerful rays, was that of Doctor Louis Weigel, of New York, Mr. Edison's assistant, died by inches. A cancerous growth appeared upon his left arm and the lower part of this limb was amputated. Slowly his hair, mustache and eyebrows vanished and his skin in many places became hardened and inflamed. Then his right hand and arm began to go. First, four fingers were taken from that member. A futile effort was made to save his upper arm by grafting small pieces of healthy skin upon it from time to time. Finally it, too, was lost, and went under the surgeon's knife in a vain effort to save the sufferer's life. It was in 1904 that Dalley was added to the list of dead who had died because of their devotion to science.

Long Fight Against Death.

Weigel died in 1908, after seven operations. His fight against death was one of the longest in the history of those who have gone to their martyrdom because of the X-ray. Some years ago the Curies isolated radium. Curie himself died as an indirect result of the researchers with that dangerous element. The immediate cause of his death was his being run down in the streets of London, but his weakened condition because of frightful chest burns from radium was the contributing cause of his disease.

The comparative immunity that the race now has from many diseases was purchased in some instances by the death of one or more investigators. "Yellow Jack" has ceased to be the dreaded thing that it was before the death of Doctor Walter Reed. Reed solved the mystery of the spread of yellow fever and died in his solving. But there will never be another terrible visitation of "Yellow Jack" in our southern cities. Thirty years ago the south was just beginning to recover from a terrible visitation of this infection. It had cost that section of the country millions of dollars and a few thousand lives. First and last "Yellow Jack" has hung his saffron banner out ninety times in the United States. There have been ninety of these deadly invasions of this mosquito-borne disease. Doctor Reed made it certain that there will never be another of any serious proportions.

Yellow fever will never call forth the acts of heroism that it did in Louisville, Memphis, New Orleans and other cities in the old "fever belt." Reed was sent to Cuba in 1900 to help clean up the island. Death rates in all diseases sank steadily under the improved sanitation. Yellow fever remained unchanged. Reed became possessed of the notion that yellow fever was carried from victim to victim by the mosquito. Reed, Carroll and Lazear offered themselves as experimental subjects. Lazear died and Reed came back to the States in a weakened condition, and finally passed away because of the low vitality that was left him after his battle with the tropical disease.

Deaths Every Month.

Doctors and surgeons are dying almost every month in the year from cancer, tuberculosis, fevers, blood-poisoning or some obscure ailment that attacks when least expected. Most of the research students of medicine understand that they are taking their lives literally in their hands when they enter upon their studies. Disease germs lurk in the air about them during most of their waking hours. They literally lie down and get up with death, and their waking moments are taken up with the handling and culturing of germs that may at any time infect them. A single slip may prove fatal. When a doctor starts upon a career of research he understands just what his chances are and accepts them.

It is just a year in this month since Doctor Rickets died in the little American hospital in Mexico City. Ricketts had come into the City of Mexico from Washington for the purpose of studying the germs of typhoid fever. He was one of the first authorities on typhoid in this country, but his knowledge could not save him from the clutches of the typhoid bacilli. His death added another to the long roll of American martyrs who have died that the race might be a little more free from the fear of death. With each death the goal of a less disease comes just a little closer.

You can find men of this stripe in the fever-ridden areas of the tropics, searching for the secret of the sleeping sickness, of the plague and the malignant enteric fevers that sweep thousands into their graves yearly. Armed with serums, quinine, microscopes and testing tubes, they venture into the valleys of the Amazon, the Niger and the Ganges, hoping to add something to the sum total of human knowledge in the matter of diseases. English and Russian scientists can be found in the hill countries of the Tibetan provinces making close and careful studies of goitre and the nameless diseases that slay the Tibetan in his smoky hut. American doctors are facing death, and, worse, in the Philippines, making careful investigations of the weird affections that have killed the "little brown brother" for generations.

These are just some of the risks the man of science runs when he invades the inner fields of malignant affections. For every man, however, that die in the search there are two to take his place. The crusading spirit is still strong among the disciples of Esculapius. Through their deaths the way is made easier for those who follow.—St. Louis Republic.

French Pigeon Racing Is an Exciting Sport

Every Garrison Keeps a Battalion of Swift Messengers.

PIGEON flying is carried on in the department of the north with more enthusiasm than in any other section of France. Aside from being a sport, the practical side has appealed to the Government, and, as a result, almost every garrison is fitted with a loft where pigeons are trained for use in time of war and during army manoeuvres.

Several years ago a decree was signed forbidding the keeping or training of racing pigeons (pigeons voyageurs) by foreigners residing in the country. A French citizen, to keep such birds, must first make an application to the civil authorities. This application is forwarded to the governor of the department, and it is only on his approval that the necessary permission is granted.

The training of racing pigeons is a long and tedious undertaking, not always meeting with success, but very profitable when properly carried out. The city of Roubaix alone has 53 pigeon clubs, the members possessing 12,226 trained birds as well as 8,723 untrained birds, the latter being kept for breeding purposes. These clubs hold a certain number of "concours," or matches, during the season, and have all interested to take part. For each bird entered a fee of 10 to 40 cents is charged. Each club employs a convoyeur, an official whose duty it is to accompany the baskets of pigeons to their destination, feed them during the trip, and release them at the stated time and place.

Prior to the racing season, which continues from May to September, those interested bring their birds to the club on stated days to make trial flights ranging from 30 to 100 miles. These trial flights enable the owners to select the best birds for the long-distance races.

Contests on Sundays.

Races are invariably held on Sundays. Birds entered must be brought to the clubhouse 48 hours before the match, to be marked and placed in a basket holding 50 to 60 birds. On an average, 2,000 to 3,000 birds are entered for each match. Prior to placing the pigeons in baskets for transportation to the point of liberation, a rubber ring is placed on the leg of each bird bearing a special mark for that particular match.

The days preceding the race, the convoyeur leaves with the baskets of pigeons in a special car attached to a passenger train, and for which the railway companies make a special rate. On arriving at the destination the car is sealed by the station agent, who unseals it the next day and superintends the removal of the baskets to the freight yard, where they are opened at a given time, the station agent signing a certificate to that effect. A certain amount from the entry fees is set aside for prizes and expenses. Pools are also formed, and it is not uncommon for the owner of the winning bird to receive $150 besides the recognized prize.

To prevent all dishonesty and to establish accuracy in timing flights, a special apparatus is used, each bird owner possessing one. This is a wooden box containing a sealed clock set to agree exactly with the sealed watch of the convoyeur. On the bird's return from a flight, the owner removes the ring from its leg and drops it in a slot in the apparatus, where a special mechanism registers on a paper roll, to a fraction of a second, the moment when the ring was inserted.

On the day of the race the owners of the racing birds keep their pigeon lofts closed, save for a trap or opening, none of the other birds being allowed liberty. The owner and an assistant wait in the loft with the timing apparatus for the arrival of the racers. In some lofts an electric contrivance is fixed to the board on which the bird alights, which gives warning of its return. As the pigeon has not been fed prior to being liberated on its flight, it immediately enters the loft on its return in search of food, where it is caught, the ring removed from its foot, and registered, after which the bird is carefully fed and placed alone to rest.

The average speed of a well-trained bird is 50 miles an hour, but this is frequently exceeded. As a general rule, all birds taking part in a match will have returned to their several lofts within 10 minutes after the arrival of the first bird, showing the excellent training and selection which has been made.

The most difficult annual race is that from Biarritz to Roubaix, 625 miles, for which the governor and the minister of war offer handsome prizes.

A law is in force in France which deals severely with anyone detaining, injuring or killing a racing pigeon. As a further instance of the Government's interest, the wires of the telegraph and telephone systems (Government monopolies) in the vicinity of pigeon breeding and flying centres are fitted at certain intervals with large cork blocks to warn the birds away when in flight, thus saving them from death or certain injury. In time of war all racing pigeons (as with horses) must be held at the disposition of the Government.

As much as $200 has been offered and refused for a blue racing pigeon. This indicates the value at which selected birds are held. The homing instinct of these birds is extraordinary, cases being known where birds that have been taken from Roubaix to other parts of France have returned after a period of six years.

A SHIP'S STRANGE DILEMMA.

Many strange reasons have been given for a vessel's disappearance, but the loss of the English schooner J. C. Strawbridge is a quite exceptional story. The vessel was bound for Nassau, in the Bahamas, with a cargo of ice. The J. C. Strawbridge ran into the warm temperature of the Gulf Stream, and, instead of ice as cargo, she was presently battling with a hold full of water, which kept her bobbing about like a mechanical toy. All hands were ordered to the pumps, and for four days the crew pumped the melted cargo into the ocean. Their efforts, however, were in vain. The crew had to take to the boats, and a few hours later the schooner foundered.

TRANSVAAL GOLD.

The total output of the gold fields of the Transvaal in 1910 amounted to 7,035,843 fine ounces, valued at $145,536,433, as compared with 5,280,242 fine ounces, valued at $110,500,346, in 1909. The Witwatersrand district, of which Johannesburg is the center, produced 7,228,311 fine ounces, valued at $149,420,587, an increase of 189,175 ounces, valued at $3,910,490, over 1909. Thus, all the vast output of gold in the Transvaal for the year 1910 was, with the exception of $6,315,856, mined in a district less than 60 miles in extent.

The importance of these gold mines and the extent of their influence, not only on South Africa but upon the world at large, can be realized the better when it is considered that within the 25 years of their operation the total output of gold in the Transvaal reaches $1,412,071,806, and, excepting the brief war period, when mining operations were practically at a standstill, the output, instead of showing any diminution, has steadily and largely grown with each succeeding year, with the present prospect of a continuation of increases for years to come. The increase in the gold production can best be understood when it is stated that the yearly output has risen from less than $5,000,000 in 1888 to $155,736,423 in the year just closed, each of the last three years showing an increase over the previous one of practically $5,000,000.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.

Census Taking in India

A Difficult Work—Drums Beat All Day Long—Chinese the Only Disturbers.

FEW people can appreciate the difficulty of the census in India. In some countries everyone is more or less disciplined to public circulars, but in India, where the numbers of the illiterate are largely in excess of the literate, the difficulties are enormous. For instance, taking Calcutta as an example of the presidency towns, the method employed was as follows. The preliminary preparations had to be made as much as a year in advance. The actual census-taking began on Feb. 18, and was continued for twenty days, closing on March 10 last. It would have been impossible for the census officials to have tackled Calcutta in any other way. With its teeming thousands of natives packed in acres of labyrinth a simultaneous annotation is quite impossible. The enumerators took the police sections of the city as their divisions. Each of these sections was subdivided into small blocks and an enumerator appointed to each block. In order to complete the native tally each enumerator was allowed ten days. Then, having rounded up a large portion of the native inhabitants, the enumerators addressed themselves to the native servants and the native hangers-on in the European quarter of the town. These elaborate measures, however, left all the commercial natives uncounted. Oriental means were then resorted to in order to keep the natives indoors so as to complete the enumeration. All day long on March 10 the native criers "with beat of drum" informed the people that they must remain within doors after evening gunfire. The enumerators had a night-long labor, as the cast brings the added difficulty of the seraglio system. In India it is always a delicate question even for a fully authorized official to inquire into the secrets of the harem. Often householders will resent this intrusion with force. In the case of Calcutta, however, the only disturbance was in the Chinese quarter, the Chinamen for some time refusing to comply with the enumerators' demands. The arrival of the police, however, enabled the work to proceed. There is a great rivalry between Calcutta and Bombay, as both desire to be considered the leading city in India. The census, therefore, has been very carefully and jealously taken in each town, as their populations are nearly equal in the point of estimated numbers. Calcutta had officials stationed at every points of ingress to catch and register the thousands of carters who bring their vehicles during the night from the villages to the market.

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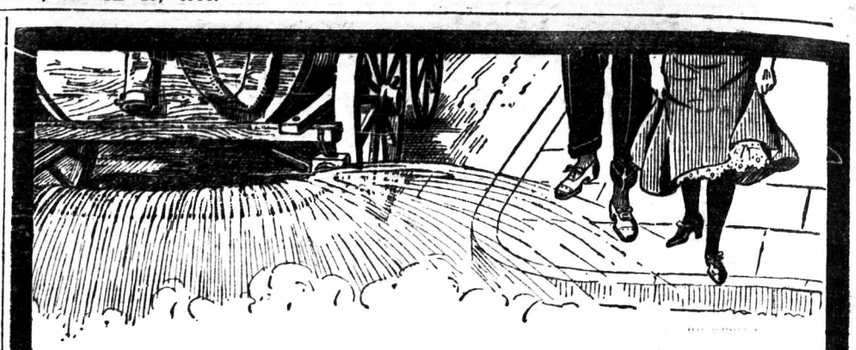

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The health we enjoy depends very largely upon how the blood circulates in our bodies; in other words, if we have perfect circulation we will have perfect health.

There is a constant wearing out of the tissues in every part of the body. The blood flowing through the veins carries off this waste or dead matter, while the blood coming from the heart through the arteries brings the fresh new living tissue, the essence of the food we have digested, to replace what has been carried off. This constant wearing out and expelling of the dead matter and the replacing of it with new matter, atom by atom, goes on day and night, until in about 7 years a complete change has been effected. Thus every man and woman has an entirely different body in every particle of it from what he or she had 7 years before.

It sometimes happens, however, from a variety of causes, that the blood becomes congested in certain portions of the body. This means that the blood vessels in these parts become weakened, and the circulation in that section of the body becomes sluggish and stagnant. The consequence is that the dead matter in that part of the body is only partially carried away, and that but little of the new, vital matter is introduced there to build up and strengthen the tissues and nerves.

This condition invariably exists in all cases of female disorders. The dead matter retained in the circulation, which should have been expelled, causes irritation and inflammation of the delicate membrane, and oppresses the nerve centres. This condition is the cause of the grievous physical and mental suffering which accompanies female troubles.

To obtain relief it is evident that the first thing to be done is to get rid of the dead matter which is being held in the circulation. If this dead matter is allowed to remain there a species of blood poisoning will result and nature will endeavor to get rid of it by forming ulcers, tumors, etc.

The above explanation will also show why ORANGE LILY is so successful in curing this condition. It is a local treatment, and is applied direct to the affected organs. Its curative elements are absorbed into the congested tissue, and from the very start the dead matter begins to be discharged. A feeling of immense relief, both mental and physical, accompanies it, and the improvement is constant and positive. This feature of the expelling of the dead matter is always present to a greater or less extent, and in some cases it is so marked as to be amazing. The case described in the following letter is not exceptional:

Dr. Coonley—I am thankful to Mrs. F. E. Currah, your Canadian representative, for my health restored by your wonderful remedy. I have suffered for 17 years, but not so bad until 3 years ago. Then I had a doctor, who told me I had a tumor, and could live no more than a year. If I went through an operation I would not live through it. A year later I sent for him again, and he gave me up to die. My husband then sent for another doctor, who performed an operation, and it did me much good. I doctored with him 3 or 4 months, but became so bad again that I thought I could live no longer, and I began to long to die. One day my husband came home and threw a slip of paper to me with Mrs. Currah's address and told me a lady had advised him to write to her for a treatment that would cure me. I said it was too late, that I would die anyway. I could not lift a teacup without hurting me. Then the first doctor told me I was worse than ever. However, my husband sent for ORANGE LILY, and the third treatment brought away one tumor. Others followed, until 7 tumors had been expelled, 3 large ones and 4 small ones. I know if it had not been for ORANGE LILY I would have died, for I could not live much longer. I would have thought it cheap at one hundred dollars for a month's treatment, instead of one dollar. It is worth its weight in gold.—MRS. GEO. LEWIS, Huntsville, Ont.

The above letter is published with Mrs. Lewis' permission. All letters received are treated as being sacredly confidential, but occasionally some patient feels so grateful for being cured that she is willing to make the matter known for the benefit and encouragement of her suffering sisters.

ORANGE LILY is a positive, scientific remedy for all disorders of the female functions. As explained above these troubles are of local origin, and require local treatment. It is just as sensible to take medicine internally for female troubles as it would be to take medicine internally for a bruise, a boil or an ulcerated tooth. In all these cases some dead matter is being retained, and the cure is effected by employing local methods for expelling the dead matter. ORANGE LILY has antiseptic, soothing and healing properties, and also tones up and invigorates blood vessels and nerves. I am so anxious that every suffering woman may satisfy herself, without cost to her, that ORANGE LILY will cure her, that I hereby make the following

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