

In speaking on the second reading of the Venereal Disease Bill in the British House of Commons, Captain Frederick Guest said:

"Captain Frederick Guest expressed a fear that the machinery of the free treatment scheme would be too slow adequately to tackle the disease for the purposes of the war. In his opinion, there were only two ways in which good could be done. The first was to remove the temptation from the soldier and the second to subject the civil population to compulsory treatment and detention until cured. It had been stated that the percentage of the disease in the army was 43 per 1,000. Reckoning such an army as we might be imagined to have had last year, Captain Guest said this percentage showed something like 107,000 cases. Those seemed to him very serious figures when we were hunting to get recruits in hundreds. These were the War Office figures, and he did not know whether they covered all the cases that had occurred in France as well as in England. He had certain figures which made him rather suspicious. His own figures were open to challenge. He submitted them for the purpose. During two and a half or two and three-quarter years there had been admitted into the hospitals of England over 70,000 cases of gonorrhoea, over 21,000 cases of syphilis and over 6,000 cases of soft chancre. What the figures were in France we did not know, as they were wisely kept wrapped up. But he did know of a British hospital in France instituted to deal with such cases where accommodation for 500 or 600 had been expanded to accommodate 2,000, and it was continually full. He would be delighted if the Government could inform him that he was wrong in saying that during this war between 40,000 and 50,000 cases had passed through our hospitals in France. Some of these cases reappeared as admissions to England, but he believed not many. Coming to the figures for gonorrhoea, Captain Guest said the figures given him suggested that the number was between 150,000 and 200,000 cases, and that few of them reappeared in England. Passing down to the sectional considerations, Captain Guest said, as to the Canadians, that in one camp during sixteen months there were 7,000 cases."

Sir Hamar Greenwood and others supported the Bill, when the second reading was declared carried without a division.

THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

As the subject of venereal diseases are acutely before the medical professional at present, it may be well to give the conclusions arrived at by Drs. B. A. Thomas and C. H. J. Barnett in their article in *The New York Medical Journal* for 12th May:

1. The treatment of syphilis, notwithstanding the promise of sal-