

The next chapters deal with the actions at Festubert and Givenchy, and then with the long period of trench warfare in the Plugstreet area, where the minds of the medical staff were chiefly occupied with the purification of water and disinfection of clothes. In spite of the multiplicity of details handled and the large number of names of places and persons he mentions, Colonel Adami has traced the ups and downs of the fights in 1915 and the part the C.A.M.C. had in them with the skill of an accomplished story teller. The reader is carried along breathless from one tight corner to another. Colonel Adami has depended largely upon the diaries of individual officers, and he does not disdain to glean from them personal touches which give a more vivid impression of the actual conditions than could be got from a formal description. Thus there was the thankfulness of Colonel Rackes for what at the moment seemed like a stroke of genius of the bearers who contrived for him high trestles on which the stretcher was placed to save the backaching labour of bending over the stretcher on the floor, a simple thing when you have thought of it and found the trestles. Then there is the picture of Colonel Ross at No. 1 Field Ambulance working away with no tunic and no belt, attired in an old green sweater, and getting things done; and the note of the M.O. of the 2nd Brigade, who thought our artillery response to the hurricane of German shells disappointing and depressing, sounding "like a pea-shooter in a foundry."

In the concluding chapters of the volume the work of various medical units and their establishment in France is described and administrative methods are fully explained, but in this direction the most valuable part of the book will be the account, given incidentally in the narrative of the battles, of the various difficulties encountered and surmounted in succession by General Foster, whose portrait appropriately forms a frontispiece to this volume. It should be added that excellent sketch maps are provided, showing the position of the medical units at several stages of the battles of Ypres, Festubert, and Givenchy.

THE A.A.M.C. IN EGYPT.

SIR JAMES BARRETT'S handsome volume, *The Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt*,<sup>2</sup> gives, in the words of the subtitle, an illustrated and detailed account of the early organization and work of the Australian Medical Units in Egypt in 1914-1915. The author and his collaborator, Lieutenant P. E. DEANE, were both connected with No. 1 Australian General Hospital, the one as registrar, oculist, and aurist, the other as quartermaster; and a large part of the book is based on their personal experience of that hospital—its origin, its journey overseas, and its arrival, settlement, and work in Heliopolis and the surrounding district. Colonel Barrett had been secretary and executive officer of the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Society, and he subsequently held various other medical administrative posts. He was for a time A.D.M.S. and consulting oculist and aurist to the Australian Force in Egypt, while at the height of the emergency due to the casualties from the Gallipoli landing he was appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society in Egypt, upon which he did valuable work. His criticisms of the policy, or lack of policy, of the Australian Red Cross and his recommendations for securing greater efficiency in the military medical service come, therefore, from one who was in the very middle of events during that anxious time. His lively narrative reveals the problems that faced the A.A.M.C. in Egypt, and the admirable manner in which that corps responded to the emergency. The book is thus interesting as a story of human effort in time of stress and valuable as a record of medical administration under difficulties.

As everybody knows, discipline is not the strong point of the gallant Australian fighting men, and the tact and firmness of commanding officers has often been tried pretty highly. Consequently, it is not surprising to read that the venereal disease problem gave a great deal of trouble in Egypt, though its main features did not differ materially from those presented by the problem elsewhere. Simple leaflets and addresses warning the men against this danger and the allied danger of drunkenness were

<sup>2</sup> *The Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt*. By James W. Barrett, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.S., Temporary Lieutenant Colonel R.A.M.C., lately Lieutenant Colonel A.A.M.C.; and Lieutenant P. E. Deane, A.A.M.C. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1918. Demy 8vo, pp. 271; 36 illustrations. 12s. 6d.

given to troops on arrival; but notwithstanding these and other efforts, which received the warm support of General Birdwood, the amount of venereal disease continued to cause anxiety—1,344 men were returned to Australia disabled, and 450 were sent to Malta. Ample provision of soldiers' clubs, providing a "reasonable, healthy, and decent alternative" to misbehaviour, is regarded by the author as perhaps the most effective of the various means for checking this evil. Surveying the whole campaign after his second tenure of office in Egypt, he concluded that the fundamental fault of the Australian Army Medical Service was the insufficient attention given to the prevention of disease generally.

The book is dedicated to Sir Henry and Lady MacMahon, the High Commissioner and his wife, in recognition of their services to the Australian sick and wounded in Egypt. There are many illustrations, reproduced for the most part from photographs by Private Frank Tate, which add to the interest of a work that should find many readers.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

In the fifth edition of his *Textbook of General Bacteriology*<sup>3</sup> Professor JORDAN has successfully surveyed the very wide field of bacteriology and has not confined his attention to the commoner pathogens of human diseases. There are excellent chapters on the filtrable viruses, the bacteriology of milk and milk products, on bacteria and the nitrogen cycle, on bacteria in the arts and industries, on the bacteria of air, soil, and water, and a fascinating description of the bacterial diseases of plants. In a new chapter on typhus fever the claims of the bacillus of Plotz to be the specific organism of the disease are advocated, but at the present time few would be disposed to regard it as more than a secondary invader. Consideration is given to the varieties and distribution of pneumococci, to the Schick reaction, to mouth entamoebae and to the *B. abortus* of Bang. We note that the author makes no mention of the *Spirochaeta icterohaemorrhagiae* and still considers the *B. proteus* to be the cause of Weil's disease. Bibliographical references are given at the foot of the pages and should prove useful to the advanced student. The author has succeeded in his attempt to furnish in English a general introduction to the subject with some regard for perspective and with emphasis on general rather than on special questions.

*A Course in Food Analysis*,<sup>4</sup> by A. L. WINTON, furnishes an excellent introduction to the subject and provides a thorough training in the numerous procedures adopted in this important branch of chemistry. The directions are explicit, so that the intelligent student with this book as his guide will be able to surmount the difficulties that lie in his path. Careful selection has been made of the best methods of carrying out each determination. The author estimates that the course can be completed in forty laboratory periods of four hours each. For the student starting out to become a food analyst this work should prove exceedingly helpful, and, although it covers more ground than that usually surveyed by the D.P.H. candidate, it will be useful to the teacher in charge of the instruction of public health students. The paper and binding are good, the print large and clear, the illustrations numerous, and the whole makes an attractive volume of convenient size.

<sup>3</sup> *A Textbook of General Bacteriology*. By Edwin O. Jordan, Ph.D., Professor of Bacteriology, University of Chicago. Fifth edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1916. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 668; 177 figures. 15s. net.)

<sup>4</sup> *A Course in Food Analysis*. By Andrew L. Winton, Ph.D. London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.; New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1917. (Med. 8vo, pp. ix + 252; 107 figures. 7s. net.)

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

Nasal Douche.

MESSRS. C. J. HEWLETT AND SON, 35-42, Charlotte Street, E.C.2, have placed on sale a nasal douche of British manu-

facture which is handy and easily operated. A finger placed on the orifice in the glass dome regulates the flow of liquid. The contents do not spill when being used or when at rest. The glass is toughened and so can be sterilized by boiling without fear of breakage.

