

has been under the care of various physicians, who have prescribed cod-liver oil and other restoratives, and probably the entire list of anodynes and analgesics. The patient having a history of chronic constipation I began the use of Dorsey's solution, but the attacks returned with their usual severity and regularity. About two months ago I began the use of the following:

R.	Olei ricini	
	Glycerini aāiii
	Tincturæ opii camphoratǣiv
M.	Sig. Teaspoonful at bedtime.	

I have given the above every day since beginning the treatment.

The patient has had but one attack since, and that a very mild one. Her general appearance is much improved, and her chronic constipation is a thing of the past.

The question is whether the theory of Prof. Gussenbauer is tenable, or whether we do not have in castor-oil a restorative agent hitherto unrecognized.

ALVA W. KNOTTS, M.D.

Alleged Army Medical Abuse.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 21, 1900.

To the Editor:—We have been reading recently in the daily press and medical journals about the shortcomings of the British Army Medical Department in Southern Africa. During the active progress of the war we heard nothing but words of praise for the devotion to duty of the Medical Department and its foresight in providing all that was needful for the care of the wounded hundreds of miles from the base of supplies. General officers, themselves wounded, testified to the admirable management which brought their wounded men from the field and transported them in comfort to the base hospitals at Cape Town. Kipling has told the story of one hospital train on its way to the front and thence back to the general hospitals with its load of disabled men. His brilliant description of the return trip conveys a sense of the restfulness and comfort enjoyed by the men who had been gathered up from the battlefield. An air of solicitude for the comfort of the sufferers pervades every sentence of the story and everything which the most judicious provision would be likely to call for as being needful appears to have been at command. Eminent surgeons from civil life were sent out ostensibly to give the benefit of their wisdom and experience to their military confrères, but in reality as inspectors on the part of the British public; and their words have been words of commendation for the excellent work of an overworked department. All this we supposed to be fact and we were proud of the record which our British brethren had made under trying conditions; but a very estimable gentleman, having no experience of war and its methods, visited Cape Town and exposed the shortcomings of the medical department. The daily press spread his views before the public, and now an investigation is in order which will no doubt redound to the credit of the department, for we can not suppose that so many thousand sick and wounded men came back to England from South Africa during the past year without exposing the failure of the medical department to do its duty, if there were such a failure.

Our own Army Medical Department has now become the subject of adverse criticism, which was brought to my attention by some editorial remarks in the last issue of THE JOURNAL under the heading "Alleged Army Medical Abuse." From reading the official reports of medical officers in the Philippine Islands, I was under the impression that our troops serving there were very well cared for. On the close of active campaigning some months ago, the army was broken up and distributed for garrison duty in a large number of towns, seaport and inland. Good quarters were provided for them, with plenty of good food and purified water supplies. Under these favorable conditions the sick-rate became reduced to about 8 per cent. of the command. Each detachment or garrison has its local hospital for emergency or trivial cases. There are well-equipped base hospitals in each district for the care of cases of greater gravity, and for the relief of these there are hospitals in Manila with a capacity of about four thousand

beds, including a convalescent hospital on Corregidor Island in the mouth of the bay. For the transportation of cases from seaport towns which have no railway connections, the hospital-ship *Relief* does excellent service. It was, therefore, with considerable surprise that I read the editorial in your last issue. On making inquiry, I found your remarks to be based apparently on press despatches from Washington, D. C., dated August 7, 1900, which state that within two days after her arrival in Manila a lady from New York discovered the impoverished condition of the medical department and promptly reported her discoveries to the Secretary of War and other prominent persons. Much stress appears to be laid on the want of sheets, for the lady is represented as having appealed for 500 sheets for immediate distribution. How the discovery of this want of sheets was made is not stated in any of the published articles I have seen. You are kind enough to say that: "In the matter of sheets, which seems to be one of the special points of criticism, there might readily be an apparent defectiveness and yet no very serious hardship to anyone, certainly not to a seasoned soldier, convalescent." You will be pleased, therefore, to know that even this hardship was not necessarily entailed upon any of our sick soldiers in Manila. If this lady had inspected the medical supply depot in that city she would have found a plentiful stock of sheets, as compared with the 500 for which she appealed. From January 1, 1900, till the present time, there have been sent to Manila for hospital use 79,500 sheets, and on August 9, 1900, there were on hand for issue no less than 23,940.

I need say no more about the "alleged army medical abuse." Respectfully,
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 Lieut.-Col., Deputy Surg.-Gen'l, U. S. A.

Rambling Notes of a Roving Doctor.

PARIS, August, 1900.

PARIS EXPOSITION.

To the Editor:—I have a clipping from an American newspaper regarding the Paris Exposition, in which the writer claims that in the great art gallery, where the different nations have their pictures on exhibition, the United States eclipses them all. Before I read this I had visited and studied with some care this collection, and I had put the United States in about the ninth place, as compared with the works of other countries. We have, it is true, a few good pictures, especially good portraits, but the collection as a whole does not do us credit as a nation possessing a high order of artistic skill. While, I believe, it was understood that France was to have 45 per cent. of the space allotted to exhibitors, she has managed the matter so much to her advantage that she has appropriated at least three-quarters of all the desirable space.

"LA VILLE DE PARIS."

"The Ville de Paris" contains, in my opinion, the most valuable and instructive collection of any one building on the grounds. Here, under one roof, all the best things that Paris has produced may be seen. The engineer can see specimens of nearly every style of work that he will ever be called upon to perform. Systems to drain cities and supply them with pure water, that before its filtration was reeking with germs, are illustrated. Miniature streets are shown, in which different kinds of pavement are exhibited, and their cost and durability are given. The chemist can look into a laboratory where are produced many of the articles that belong to his profession, and can see the appliances used in their production. The physician can see here a hospital bed such as was in use at Hôtel Dieu at the end of the eighteenth century, where four men occupied one small couch, two of them having their heads in opposite directions. In the next room is a modern hospital cot, occupied by a single patient, whose surroundings are so airy and comfortable that it would seem a luxury to take his place and play the rôle of a sick man.

One entire room is occupied by appliances for the study of germ life, their cultivation in different media, and their microscopic examination. The veterinarian can see the morbid changes that take place in the organs of the cow, the sheep and the horse. There, too, is the incubator where eggs are hatched, and the incubator in which prematurely born chil-