

VENEREAL CONTROL

Dr. George Walker Tells of Army Treatment.

ADVOCATES PROPHYLACTIC STATIONS

One of the Most Dangerous Scourges of Mankind Is Allowed to Flourish Because the Public Insists on Shutting Its Eyes to Facts.

Without a single dissenting vote, the South Carolina Medical Association, at its annual meeting in Columbia Tuesday, went on record as endorsing the suggestion that public prophylactic stations be established in this state for the control of venereal diseases.

This action taken by the association, considered generally as one of far reaching importance, came at the conclusion of an able and illuminating address by Dr. George Walker of Baltimore, whose subject was "Abolition of Venereal Diseases." Dr. Walker, in his address, gave convincing figures to show the effectiveness of the prophylactic station in combating venereal disease in the army in France. The disease was prevalent to a surprising degree, he said, and efforts to hold it in check by various means practically failed until the prophylactic stations were established. With the establishment of these stations, the number of infections dropped rapidly, the speaker said. Dr. Walker supported all of his statements by giving figures and percentages as taken from the records.

In civil life, the disease, too, is far more prevalent than might be thought according to Dr. Walker. Of a large number of patients examined in hospitals, who had come to be treated for other disease, 11 per cent had venereal disease; 13 per cent of white inmates in a jail were suffering from the same disease and 27 per cent of the negro inmates of the jail were also victims of this disease; 68 per cent of a group of prostitutes examined had the disease, said Dr. Walker. He quoted Dr. Osler as having said that 30 per cent of all organic heart diseases were due to syphilis; from 30 per cent to 35 per cent of diseases of arteries were due to syphilis and 20 per cent of nervous diseases were traceable to the same disease, he quoted. He said Dr. Osler placed syphilis as fourth on the mortality lists.

Tells of Results.

In giving some figures to show the effectiveness of the prophylactic treatment, Dr. Walker said in one locality, 9,873 soldiers had been treated with 19 cases of infection. In another camp 126,000 men had been treated with 1.4 per cent failures. In another group of 27,000 treatments by the prophylactic stations, there had been eight failures to prevent infection. In another locality, 6,524 men had been treated, with five infections. In the army as a whole there had been 32,000 treatments with a failure of 1.3 per cent.

"In the prophylactic station we have something in which we can talk in terms of abolishing venereal diseases," he said. "Shall we get control of venereal diseases or shall we continue to let them have the upper hand?" he asked. "I would like to see established in all the larger cities of the state public prophylactic stations, run somewhat as the stations were operated during the war," he said. "In the smaller towns, drug stores might carry for sale at a low price a package carrying the treatment as that given in the stations. There may be objection to this plan—some will say it interferes with public morals, he concluded.

After the association had given a vote of thanks to Dr. Walker, expressions of opinion as to the practicability of establishing these public stations were called for.

Doctors Give Opinions.

Dr. E. W. Pressly of Greenville, formerly head of the hospital at Camp Sevier, in discussing the element of "fear of consequences" as a motive for continence among men, said "fear of infection never restrained any man. Knowledge of possible consequences stops no man." Continuing, he said, "There is no reasonable objection in law, ethics or morals to the establishment of such stations and their advantage will be incalculable, as has been demonstrated."

Dr. Robert Wilson, Jr., of Charleston, said, "I am in accord with the suggestion that public stations be established and am willing for the house of delegates to go on record as endorsing the suggestions."

Dr. James R. Young, of Anderson, amended the suggestion to the effect that the state board of health be instructed to put the suggestion into practice in so far as is possible.

Dr. Patterson of Barnwell, said: "I believe we have the remedy. It is now merely a question as to the application of that remedy." Dr. Wyman of Columbia, held that the plan could be put into operation if the doctors would get squarely behind it.

Major General John L. Hines, commander of Camp Jackson, who was an interested listener to the discussion, was invited by President W. P. Timmerman to address the association on the subject. General Hines said that Dr. Walker had the solution of the problem and said that he heartily endorsed the establishment of the stations. Dr. Frank Parker also spoke briefly on the plan.

At the conclusion of the discussion a rising vote on the suggestion was taken and the plan was endorsed unanimously.

Dr. George Walker, whose speech on venereal diseases was at least in part responsible for the stand the medical association took on the prophylactic station plan, is a native of Yorkville. Before the war he had achieved prominence as a physician of Baltimore and during the war was a colonel on General Pershing's staff in charge of all

venereal disease control work in the A. E. F. He is generally regarded as an international authority on the control of venereal diseases. He has lived in Baltimore for years.

INSURANCE HEAD RE-APPOINTED

R. Cholmeley-Jones Again In Charge of War Risk Bureau.

Secretary Mellon announced yesterday the reappointment of Col. R. G. Cholmeley-Jones as director of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, says the Washington Herald. He entered upon the duties of his office at once. Col. Cholmeley-Jones resigned recently to return to private business as vice president of the Finance and Trading Corporation of New York, after serving as head of the bureau for twenty-two months. Previously he

served as lieutenant-colonel with the War Risk Section of the A. E. F. and was chief of that section at the time of his resignation from the military service.

He was returned to the department at the request of the secretary to assist in carrying out the recommendations of the special committee appointed by the president, of which Gen. Charles G. Dawes was chairman. The committee advanced that the task of providing medical and surgical treatment for disabled war veterans be taken over at once by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, under present law, pending action by congress upon the other recommendations of the committee.

By helping to stimulate the building industry each of us will be stimulating our own industry.

FLAGSHIP SAVES CHILD

English Battleship Goes to Relief Through Heavy Sea.

The great battleship Queen Elizabeth, Admiral Beatty's flagship of the grand fleet, saved the life of a tiny babe of the same name in the Bay of Biscay this week by answering a call from the steamship Venetian, which was bound homeward relates a London dispatch. A mother sat rocking her baby, who was ill, the mother having been up constantly without sleep for a week, when the grey outline of the warship was sighted. The child's life was ebbing rapidly when the warship was signalled for help.

The Venetian stopped and the mother drew to within a quarter of a mile of her and launched a boat which, despite the heavy sea, reached

the steamship and a doctor from the Queen Elizabeth boarded her. He was able to save the life of the infant.

The mother said she would change the baby's name to that of the Man O'War, but when she was informed that the ship was the Queen Elizabeth she said that the child's name would remain unchanged.

READING OBJECTS

President Demands That States Raise Money for Road Up Keep.

President Harding intends to halt Federal appropriations for the aid of states in highway construction until the states provide adequate means for the maintenance of the roads constructed says the Washington Herald. The executive is of the opinion that the states should make vehicle li-

cense fees sufficiently high to cover the cost of road maintenance, and he is opposed to granting Federal aid to states which fail to make adequate provisions for upkeep.

The Executive feels so strongly on the question that he probably would veto any legislation which fails to make road appropriations conditional upon a proper discharge of state obligations.

Roads have been built at vast expense with Federal aid, but they proved unequal to the wear of motor and truck traffic. The states failed to maintain the highways in repair and complete reconstruction is now necessary.

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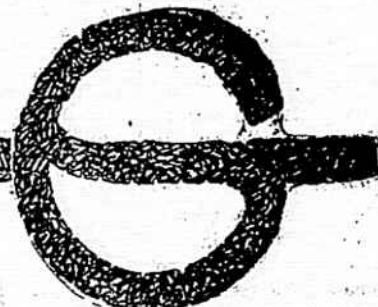
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