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Medical War News

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## MEDICAL WAR NEWS.

## YELLOW FEVER AT SANTIAGO.

ACCORDING to the most recent intelligence the total number of cases of yellow fever in the American force at Santiago now exceeds 300. Among the sufferers is General Duffield. The type of the disease is mild, and few new cases occur. There are very few cases in Santiago itself. The total number of deaths up to July 18th is given as 12.

According to information from Spanish sources the total Spanish force in Guantanamo and Caimanera numbers 5,000 men. Only about 3,000, however, are fit for service, yellow fever being rife among them.

## ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE RED CROSS.

The New York *Medical Record*, referring to reports which have been current in the "yellow" papers as to Spanish troops attacking Cuban hospitals and butchering doctors, nurses, and patients, says that for a long time these reports were thought to be inventions devised in order to arouse sympathy for the Cubans. Now, however, our contemporary adds, any lingering doubts as to the truth of these stories and of the Spanish nation's responsibility have been dispelled by the action of the Spaniards in shooting deliberately upon the American wounded and their bearers at the battle of Santiago de Cuba. All accounts of the battle, it says, agree in stating that the Spaniards paid no respect whatever to the Red Cross flag when flying on the American side. On the other hand, they made no scruple of flying the flag over some of their own most exposed blockhouses in order to protect them from attack. One of their batteries, it is said, was masked by a blockhouse over which the Red Cross flag was flying, and the road leading from General Shafter's quarters on the Rio Sevilla to the front had for two days been infested at various points by sharpshooters who fired deliberately upon the American wounded. A correspondent of the *Sun* states that while he was crossing a stream leading a mule bearing a wounded rough rider five shots were fired at them. The mule was killed, and Dr. Danford, a surgeon in the cavalry and at one time a surgeon under the Cuban Government, was mortally wounded by a bullet passing through his head. A few moments later two other wounded men were shot at the same crossing. According to another correspondent "one of the most horrible features of the war is the dozens of men who have been killed as they lay in litters, and the surgeons, although wearing the emblem of the Red Cross Society on their arms, have been the special object of attack."

Seven Spanish soldiers, who are believed to have been in the band of sharpshooters who fired upon the American ambulances at Santiago and killed Drs. Danford and Troval, have been taken, and it is probable that they will be hanged.

In regard to these charges of deliberate firing on surgeons and bearer parties, it would be well not to accept them unreservedly without conclusive evidence. Such charges were made by both sides in the Franco-German War, and, indeed, in every war since the Geneva Convention was made. War, as a great American general is reported to have told the cadets at West Point, is not "all glory," but "all hell," and individual acts of savagery are sure to be committed, even when it is conducted on the most humane principles.

## REPORTED YELLOW FEVER IN KEY WEST.

According to the *Medical Record* there have been two cases of illness recently at Key West, which it is suspected may have been of yellow fever. One of the patients was a sailor on the *Yankee*, who was removed to the hospital for treatment of appendicitis. While recovering from the ordinary troubles he was taken seriously ill, and died in two days. The other case was in the person of one of the attendants at the Marine Hospital, and the question concerning the nature of his illness was still undecided when he recovered.

## TEMPORARY HOSPITALS.

It is reported that the American Government will establish at Old Point a general hospital, where the sick and wounded soldiers will be brought from Cuba for treatment. Tents will be pitched at Fort Monroe, and every provision will be made for the comfort of the sufferers. Twenty surgeons have been secured for service in the hospital.

Mr. James Armstrong, of New York, has offered the Red

Cross Society the use of his country house at Centre Hill, Florida, as a hospital. The house has twenty large rooms, and is built on the highest point of land in the State, about seventy miles from Tampa. It is surrounded by 300 acres of land, and there is an ice-making plant near by.

Mr. Henry M. Flagler has presented to the Red Cross a site for a hospital at Miami, Florida, and has promised to have the first pavilion ready for occupancy within a week, and to construct a second as soon as possible. The use of the hospital, with a full staff of physicians and nurses, will be offered to the Secretary of War by the Red Cross Society.

## A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

The Southern hospital train, to be run when necessity arises from Tampa to northern points, consists of two dining cars, ten sleepers, and a baggage car. The sleepers will accommodate 500 men if necessary. One car is arranged as an operating room. The train will be kept at Tampa for the present as a stationary hospital for the sick and wounded, but will be ready at an hour's notice to start north whenever it is thought best to remove the patients to a cooler climate. The Daughters of the American Revolution will keep the hospital train supplied with delicacies for the sick.

## HOSPITAL SHIPS.

Bids are now being received by the purchasing agents of the Charleston navy yard for the furnishings of new hospital ships which are to be fitted out there.

## RED CROSS NURSES TO THE FRONT.

The Red Cross Auxiliary Committee has suggested the sending of 100 nurses and assistants as near to the scene of hostilities as may be practicable, to the end that they may be accessible for service with the least possible delay, and the Relief Committee announces that it is prepared to undertake the entire expense of transportation from New York to Tampa and to such other places as it may be deemed necessary to send these nurses, and their maintenance while in the field and until their return to New York. Fifteen nurses left New York on July 2nd for Cuba, and 11 nurses, 2 physicians, and 2 students on July 4th. Preparations are also being completed to send a ship to the Philippines with relief stores for the suffering which reports recently received declare to exist there.

## REGIMENTAL BANDS AS AN AMBULANCE CORPS.

The Assistant-Adjutant-General of the United States forces has issued orders to the following effect: that all members of regimental bands will be instructed in hospital drill, and as much of first aid to the injured as is practicable under existing circumstances. To this end all musicians will hereafter report to a medical officer attached to the regiment to which the band belongs for one hour each day for instructions until they are pronounced qualified by the medical officer who instructs them. This arrangement will add largely to the numerical force and efficiency of first-aid bearers upon the battlefield. Practically, the instruction that band members are receiving consists of exercises in the manual of the litter, namely, marchings with the litter, as litter squads, composing a detachment so as to mobilise at a given point; searching for the wounded by scattering the several squads under charge of their respective squad leaders; the proper loading of the litters with the wounded, and their easy conveyance to some designated spot, and the placing of the loaded litters in ambulances.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY Council was held on July 14th, 1898, Sir WILLIAM MACCORMAC, Bart., in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

*Death of Mr. Henry Lee.*—The Council recorded their deep regret at the death of Mr. Henry Lee, and expressed their sympathy with his widow and family.

*Professors and Lecturers.*—The following were elected Hunterian Professors: Dr. Leonard Erskine Hill, Mr. Frederick Gymer Parsons, and Mr. Charles Stewart. The subject proposed by Dr. Hill is the Influence of Gravity on the Circulation; that by Mr. Parsons, Joints of Mammals Contrasted with those of Man. Mr. Berkeley George Andrew Moynihan,