

Photocopy of the suggestions (c.1855) by the Director-General (of the A.M.S.) re a pathological board "to investigate the state of health of the Army in the East", from an appendix to Regimental Medical Histories

Publication/Creation

c.1855

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No. V.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SUGGESTIONS respecting a PATHOLOGICAL BOARD.

SUBJECTS suggested for the Inquiry and Report of the Boards selected to investigate the state of health of the Army in the East :—

Climate.—Climate of Turkey generally, but more particularly that of the various localities occupied by, or which have been occupied by, the Army, viz. :—Gallipoli, Scutari, and the neighbourhood of the Bosphorus, Varna, and Bulgaria, the Crimea, and other stations held by our troops.

The physical characters of these countries, productions, supply, description, and quality of food, water, means of transit, &c.

Diseases.—Endemic sources of disease, epidemic visitations, their supposed origin, glance at the native practice of medicine, any available statistics affecting the increase of population : the percentage of deaths, hereditary diseases, the prevalence of venereal and small-pox and ophthalmia.

British Army.—State of each regiment on landing in the country, if previously healthy, or otherwise ; its station prior to arrival in the East, the average age of its men.

If regiments, seasoned by service in the Mediterranean, or elsewhere, have proved more healthy than corps from home.

Average percentage of sick of corps at expiration of first quarter after landing.

Average percentage of sick at the expiration of succeeding quarterly periods.

General averages from the above.

Circumstances affecting the health of particular corps and the Army generally, which have led to deterioration of health, whether arising from—

Endemic Influences.

Climate.

Deficient clothing.

Impure water.

Innutritious food.

Inefficient food.

Ill-cooked food.

Food taken without regularity.

Want of fuel.

Insufficient stimulants.

Excessive use of stimulants.

Adulterated quality of stimulants.

Excessive and too long continued bodily toil, with insufficient sleep.

Drilling at improper hours.

Want of means for ablution and personal cleanliness.

Want of tents.

Bad quality of tents.

Overcrowding in tents.

Want of bedding in tents.

Deficient or otherwise objectionable Hospital accommodation.

Objectionable Hospital marquees, whether from their texture, selection of unhealthy site, want of bedding.

Deficient supply of medicines.

" " medical comforts.

" " hospital stores.

Want of amusements.

Opinions in regard to means of transport, bearers, ambulances, &c.

Diseases.—Diseases, those more especially which have proved the scourge of the Army, their origin, mode of propagation, treatment, and pathology. Prophylactic measures attempted and recommended.

General sanitary measures recommended but not adopted, and reasons why.

Wounds.—Wounds according to the most approved mode of classification, the consequent operations, with the result, and the improved rules of practice suggested therefrom.

Suggestions for the coming campaign, keeping in view that military reasons may render the proposed measures impracticable.

General deductions from the inquiry.