

**Report on the condition of the troops, and the operations of the Sanitary Commission in the Valley of the Mississippi, for the three months ending November 30th, 1861 / by J.S. Newberry.**

**Contributors**

Newberry, J. S. 1822-1892.  
United States Sanitary Commission.  
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

**Publication/Creation**

Cleveland : Fairbanks, Benedict & Co., printers, 1861.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/sqex6dk7>

**License and attribution**

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the National Library of Medicine (U.S.), through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the National Library of Medicine (U.S.) where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

**wellcome  
collection**

Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

SANITARY COMMISSION,  
No. 36.

---

REPORT  
ON THE  
CONDITION OF THE TROOPS,  
AND THE  
OPERATIONS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION  
IN THE  
VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI,  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH, 1861.

---

BY J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
*Associate Secretary.*

---

CLEVELAND:  
FAIRBANKS, BENEDICT & CO., PRINTERS, HERALD OFFICE.  
1861.

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1887

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

1887

SANITARY COMMISSION,

No. 36.

---

REPORT  
ON THE  
CONDITION OF THE TROOPS,  
AND THE  
OPERATIONS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION  
IN THE  
VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI,  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH, 1861.

---

BY J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
*Associate Secretary.*

---

SINCE the publication of my former Report, the aspects of our field of labor in the Valley of the Mississippi have materially changed. The number of enlisted men in camp and field in that area now reaches the large figure of 250,000. As a natural consequence, the investigation into the sanitary condition of this immense force, and the effort to supply the wants from which they have suffered, have drawn largely upon my energies and the material means at my command. I am happy to be able to state that such drafts have but rarely been protested; no considerable number of troops, for whose health and comfort I have been in any degree responsible, have been wholly neglected; nor has any appeal for assistance in any case been refused, nor waited long for a full and satisfactory response. To accomplish this task my own labor has been necessarily somewhat severe; I have been compelled to travel over ten thousand miles in the service of the Commission, and in my brief intervals of rest have been burdened with a large

and constantly increasing correspondence. To do in a manner at all satisfactory the sanitary work which has been crowding upon the Commission in the Western States, it has seemed indispensable to increase our corps of agents; I have, therefore, employed two additional inspectors, who have occupied themselves with investigating and supplying the wants of the troops now rapidly gathering into Kentucky; and have established, and brought into successful operation, a depot of supplies in Western Virginia. I have also the pleasure of acknowledging my indebtedness to the earnest, systematic and most efficient aid of a large number of our associate members, and of auxiliary Ladies' Aid Societies, without whose assistance but a small portion of the work done could have been accomplished. Our acknowledgments are also due to the railroad, steamboat and express lines, who have, with few exceptions, generously offered to transport supplies free, or at greatly diminished rates. In some instances, also, they have granted free passes to our agents, and have thus spared us a heavy drain upon our limited pecuniary resources. Through all these agencies a system of sanitary measures has been inaugurated, which has already prevented and alleviated much suffering, and, it is not too much to say, has saved many lives; a system which promises in the future to add greatly to the health, comfort and efficiency of our troops, and thus to accomplish, to a good degree, the objects for which the Commission was organized.

The details of what has been done and what remains to do for the welfare of the soldier in the different divisions of our western army, will be given under the different heads where the condition and wants of the troops in the several departments are specifically noted; but a few facts in regard to the general condition of the troops in the Valley of the Mississippi, and the causes which have had a general bearing on their health and comfort, deserve to be first mentioned.

On comparing the condition of the troops which have come under my observation, with that observed at the time of making my former Report, it may be stated that, while exhibiting in many respects a different phase, their average health has on the whole not materially changed. With the advance of the season, and their experience in camp life, important modifications have taken place in the diseases from which they have suffered. The diarrhœa,

at one time so prevalent in all the camps, and the various effects of malarious poison which gave a distinct phase to the nosology of our armies early in the season, have diminished in a marked degree; while with the approach of the colder weather of autumn, the cases of typhoid fever, perhaps no more numerous, have become more grave; measles and small pox, which for a time had somewhat abated their virulence, are now more frequent and severe; and rheumatism has assumed an important place in the list of diseases with which our troops are affected. On the whole, the percentage of sick is but little greater than during the summer, yet I think it will be found to hold good, as a general rule, that the mortality has sensibly increased. This is doubtless due to the combined operation of several causes. The multitudinous cases of trivial diseases, occurring among all newly-enlisted men, and incidental to the change from civil to military life, no longer swell the sick list and fill the hospitals; and the more frequent, but less severe forms of malarious disease—ague and chill fever—have been succeeded by the rarer, but more grave, malarious dysenteries and bilious remittent fevers; while the eruptive diseases, as they are so prone to do, have multiplied in number and increased in virulence with the approach of cold weather. This increase in the number of cases of grave and fatal diseases among troops now more experienced in camp life, better equipped than at first, subject to at least partial sanitary inspection and instruction, and in the enjoyment of a large and liberal bounty from the Sanitary Commission and a generous public, by which their comfort and, as a consequence, their health have been without question greatly increased, will perhaps excite surprise and concern in many minds; and the question will naturally arise: Why is it? Doubtless a portion of the prevalent sickness and mortality are due to natural and inevitable causes, incident to the change of season, and affecting alike those enjoying the comforts of home and those exposed to the hardships of camps; there can be no question, however, that a very large number of the cases of death and grave disease in our western Armies are due to removable causes; which should therefore become matters of anxious concern and earnest, immediate effort.

In this category of causes I would include unnecessary exposure to wet and cold. The consequences following such exposure have been mainly entailed by insufficient protection against the inclem-

encies of the weather, such as defective tents, blankets too few and of inferior quality, uniforms of too light material, overcoats wholly wanting or far too pervious to both cold and rain. And here I may be permitted to remark that I cannot but anticipate the gravest consequences from the inadequacy of the protection afforded by their clothing and bedding, such, and so much as now furnished to troops soon to encounter all the severities of our arctic winter. It is my earnest conviction that few of our volunteers will be so located as to geographical position, or so protected in winter quarters, as to escape great suffering and serious disease, while guarded from the effects of cold only by their uniforms and a single blanket each. If it be determined that military necessity limits the transportation, and therefore restricts the bedding and clothing of the soldier to the present regulation standard, it is none the less a *sad* necessity, from which the gravest evils must follow. I am confident that few of our troops can endure the rigors of a winter campaign with less than at least two good blankets each and a more liberal supply of winter underclothing, socks and mittens, than even the most favored now enjoy. And I cannot but believe that the humane, the wise and prudent, both among army officers and civilians, will strain every nerve to secure to our soldiers as nearly an adequate protection against this great and impending evil as the circumstances of the case will possibly permit.

It must be borne in mind in this connection that all efforts to compensate the soldier for inadequate clothing and bedding, by raising the temperature in barracks or tents by stoves, or by carefully preventing the ingress or egress of air, will be a fruitful cause of the gravest forms of disease incident to camp life; and will be productive of even greater evils than excessive cold.

The truth of this statement is so apparent as scarcely to require an argument; a highly-heated sleeping apartment, exposing the occupants to all the many and most serious consequences of great and sudden alternations of temperature; while in closely-shut quarters, the men are deprived of the "breath of life," and are poisoned by their own exhalations.

I should, perhaps, mention here that the troops now in service in the Valley of the Mississippi are, with few exceptions, provided with uniforms, overcoats and blankets of fair quality, though few come up to the regulation standard in point of weight and dura-

bility of material. The exceptions to which I have referred are regiments which at the date of Dec. 1st were not yet supplied with overcoats, or which had only very inferior blankets. The instances of this kind which have come under my observation, or have been reported by our inspectors, are fortunately few; but few as they are, they exhibit such incompetence or inhumanity on the part of those in authority as should make them the objects of universal execration.

Some of the regiments in my field of operation have been provided with the India rubber overcoat, but I believe it has added little to the comfort of the soldier, and has been generally condemned. The India rubber blanket, on the other hand, has been as generally approved.

Passing over the evils consequent upon the neglect or incompetence of officers—unfortunately not unknown, nor unfrequent in any division of any army—I am compelled to speak of the forced marches made by some of our troops in the West as a most fruitful source of disease, and one of the most potent influences which have operated to increase the percentage of sickness and mortality to which I have already referred as matter of grave concern. Without raising the question of military necessity, the obvious consequence of such severe and unusual duty cannot be ignored; and I think I am safe in saying that the disproportionate number of sick reported in the Valley of the Kanawha—173 to a regiment—and the still greater percentage in Eastern Kentucky, are the legitimate and necessary consequence of the hardships incident to the forced marches made by the divisions in these districts.

I cannot refrain from also enumerating among the causes generally affecting the health and efficiency of the troops, the unfortunate relation which exists between the sutlers and men in many regiments; by which they are not only permitted, but often induced, to expend their earnings for food and drinks in such a way as to injure both health and morals. It would seem that there was a call for more stringent measures prohibiting the sale in camp of articles destructive to health or productive of demoralization. I have failed to perceive any good reason why the sutler should be permitted to collect his dues at the pay table; or why, unless more rigidly restricted in his functions, he should be protected from competition, and be raised above the common chances of trade.



## GENERAL CONDITION OF THE HOSPITALS.

The character and condition of the hospitals in which the sick of the western armies are treated, are fully given in the reports which follow. I may say, however, in passing, that hospital service in the West has assumed a new aspect since the presentation of my last report. Then the general hospital was almost unknown, and the regimental hospital, usually constructed of boards, small, open and airy, free from infection and uncontaminated by the emanations from the kitchen or privy, impeding in no respect the curative influences of nature's agents, left little to be desired as regards a habitation for the sick. As a consequence, the wards of no model hospital in the world could afford a more favorable exhibition of those cases of disease prone to become grave where a confined and vitiated atmosphere is substituted for the sunlight and pure air of heaven. With the advance of the season the regimental hospitals were deprived of many of their advantages, and the general hospitals which had sprung into existence were overcrowded with the increasing number of the sick. These were usually old buildings, constructed for other purposes, ill adapted to the wants of the surgeon and often inflexible to any reforms he was disposed to institute. As a consequence, they are inconvenient, ill ventilated, wanting a full supply of pure water, and destitute of commodious and sufficient bath rooms and privies. They also have been, and are still, as a general rule, overstocked with patients; without an adequate supply of beds, bedding and hospital clothing; and not often furnished with a sufficient number of intelligent and faithful nurses. There is, therefore, and must long be, much to be desired in the condition of the general hospitals throughout the West, and there must continue to be both sickness and mortality as a consequence of their imperfection. It gives me pleasure, however, to testify to the earnestness and efficiency of the Medical Directors of the different departments under whose control they are. In most instances they are doing all in their power to ameliorate the condition of the sick under their charge. They have received with cordiality the proffered assistance of the Sanitary Commission, and have accepted gratefully the large amount of hospital stores thus placed at their disposal. By the free use of the resources of the government and the liberal donations of the people, the hospitals

of Wheeling, Louisville, Cairo and St. Louis, by far the most important ones in the West, have been furnished with nearly all things necessary to the comfort and well being of the sick, and in all from which I have any reports, the amendment of condition is steadily progressing. Here, as at the East, a radical and general difficulty has been experienced in keeping a hospital in proper condition, from the impossibility, by means now in use, of having the hospital bedding and clothing promptly and thoroughly washed as it becomes soiled, so that the sick may be always cleanly, sightly and comfortable. How this desirable end can be accomplished, I am not at present prepared to say, but where it is now achieved it certainly evinces unusual energy and virtue on the part of surgeons and nurses.

### WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The condition of the troops in camp and hospital in Western Virginia, has been in some important respects modified since the publication of my former report. The number and per centage of sick has very largely increased, while the means employed for their care, both by the Government and by the Sanitary Commission, have been sensibly augmented, the number of hospitals multiplied, their condition much improved, and a great quantity of hospital stores supplied to them. The causes of this prevalence of disease in a country proverbially healthful, are, I think, unmistakable, easily pointed out, and for the most part connected with the unusual hardships to which our troops have been exposed. These hardships have been due to the nature of the topographical features of the country, the severity of the duty imposed upon too small a force, to heavy rains, floods in the rivers, which induced great suffering, and the early approach of winter, for which our troops were not fully prepared.

That portion of Virginia occupied by our forces, includes the summits, passes, western slopes and foot-hills of the mountains, and the plateau country bordering the Ohio and Kanawha. This latter region, once nearly level and smooth, has been deeply cut by the draining streams, which run in narrow valleys of excavation several hundred feet in depth. These form the channels of communication, and when traversed by troops, it has been necessary that the flank companies of regiments, and the flank regiments of

columns, should cover the broken and thickly-wooded hill-sides in their progress; thus meeting with almost inconceivable obstacles, which greatly tried their powers of endurance. The geological sub-structure of the whole country is that of the Coal measures, the water excellent, the drainage free, the air pure and salubrious. Yet in face of all these advantages, the military necessities connected with the occupation of a long frontier by a force in numbers about half what was desirable for the purpose; the forced marches; the difficulties in the way of the transportation of needed supplies, and excessive rains, have entailed sufferings not experienced by any other division of our army. Add to this, an inadequate supply of clothing, and we have ample cause for the prevalence of disease.

In the valley of the Kanawha the sufferings and sickness have been greatly aggravated by the many sad consequences of a remarkable flood by which it was inundated in October. The effect of this and other misfortunes on the health of the troops was such that at November 1st, out of a force of about 12,000 men, 2,038 were on the sick list.

Since my last report, our inspector, Dr. GRISWOLD, has visited all the camps and hospitals in Western Virginia with the exception of those at Cheat Mountain. The large force at this point has recently been much reduced, but he is now on his way to visit those remaining, who have established themselves in winter quarters. The results of his inspection, are given in the following extracts from his general report to me,—the detailed inspection returns having been forwarded to the Secretary.

---

“I left Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 20th, and arriving in this city, I procured the store 105½ Main St., by the aid of Gov. PIERPOINT, from Mr. THOMAS HORNBROOK, the owner, for an office for the Commission, and depot for Hospital Stores. No charge is to be made for rent until such time as it may be rented to the advantage of the owner.

On the 24th ultimo I proceeded to Grafton and inspected the camp of the 7th Va. Regiment there stationed, the report of which I send you herewith. The hospital at Grafton I found improved in many respects, especially in neatness and order. The building was

being completed, but the delay in the receipt of lumber had prevented the accomplishment of some of the improvements I had recommended on a former visit. The large number of sick still crowding this hospital from surrounding outposts, together with the near approach of the inclement season, induced me to recommend the construction of barracks immediately adjacent to the main building suitable for a dining room, wash room, and quarters for the surgeon and assistants. The reasons for making these additions to the hospital being given to Gen. KELLY, he approved of the measure, and orders were given for their construction at the earliest possible date. A matron and one female nurse had been engaged in this hospital, and were rendering valuable service. Patients expressed much pleasure in having females in attendance upon them. Dr. JOHN D. M. CARR still occupies the post of surgeon. He was originally called by Major OAKES to act as Assistant Surgeon of the 1st Va. Regiment, before the organization of the government of Western Virginia, and afterwards assigned to this post.

#### POST HOSPITAL AT CLARKSBURGH, VA.

Inspected Sept. 24th, 1861.

CHARLES R. WINNE, Ass't Surgeon U. S. A., has been appointed to this post since my visit in August last. Two large private dwellings are occupied for the hospital, situated about one mile apart, and well adapted to the wants of the service; one being at the eastern and the other at the western extremity of the town, convenient for the reception of the sick and wounded from either direction. At the date of my inspection, there were 122 sick and wounded in hospital. Average admissions per month, 90. Prevalent diseases were typhoid fever, remittent do., chronic rheumatism, dysentery, diarrhœa, and occasionally a case of intermittent. The hospital buildings were kept in good order; the wards well ventilated, and strict police regulations enforced. At the western building a matron was employed, and perfect order and neatness maintained. A requisition for medical supplies had been made on the Medical Director, Dr. WRIGHT of Cincinnati, but not yet received. There was but a small quantity of medicines, and no instruments on hand.

The regimental hospital of the 3d Va. Regiment at this place, was being closed up by direction of Dr. HORACE R. WIRTZ, Ass't Surgeon U. S. A., of Gen. ROSECRANS' staff. The convalescent sick were being discharged, and the principal amount of medical supplies placed in the hands of the post quartermaster; the balance being forwarded to the regimental surgeon. No report was forwarded to the Medical Director.

POST HOSPITAL GALLIPOLIS, O.

(Inspected Sept. 29, 1861.)

I found the hospital at this place in charge of Dr. T. F. GABRIEL, commissioned surgeon by the Governor of Ohio. The number of sick in hospital was 129, occupying two small, illy-constructed houses, altogether unsuited for the purpose. The rooms were small, windows mostly immovable, and hence ventilation impossible. I found on a wharf boat 37 discharged sick who had come down the Kanawha the day previous, separated from their surgeon, without passes to go further, or rations. I caused them to be fed from the hotel with coffee, soup and crackers early in the morning, before visiting the hospital.

Under these circumstances, I advised that ample hospital accommodations be immediately secured. On investigation, I learned that barracks could not be erected within four or six weeks; and that the only building in town suitable for the purpose, was the Union School House, containing eight large rooms. A meeting of the School Board was convened at 3 o'clock P. M., that day, and on presenting the subject to them in such manner as the case seemed to warrant, a voluntary consent was obtained for the occupancy of the building for hospital purposes, and before night the sick from the wharf-boat were removed to it. Dr. ROBISON, Brigade Surgeon of Gen. Cox's staff, arrived that evening, and afterwards afforded essential aid to Dr. GABRIEL in the re-organization of the hospital.

The number of deaths at this hospital since July 19th, have been six. Since Sept. 1st, fresh vegetables have been supplied by the post commissary; previous to that date the loyal citizens of Gallipolis had contributed largely for the comfort of the sick. The hospital having no stove but a sheet-iron one, the citizens had

organized a committee of ladies to cook the rations daily at their several homes. The only hospital bedding in use had been contributed by the citizens, and from surrounding towns. Fresh beef was now supplied four days in the week. Milk was also furnished in sufficient quantity.

No hospital stores, nor medicines, nor instruments had been supplied from the Medical Director. Purchases of medicines had been made from a village druggist, by order of a commanding officer. I advised that requisitions for these supplies be immediately made on the Medical Director at Cincinnati.

The active co-operation of the citizens of Gallipolis in surrendering their school building for a hospital, and in furnishing subsistence and bedding for the sick, is worthy of the highest commendation.

#### POST HOSPITAL AT PARKERSBURGH, VA.

(Inspected October 1, 1861.)

This hospital is situated about one mile east of the centre of the city of Parkersburgh, on an elevated site well suited for the purpose. It is tolerably clean, well ventilated, and apparently well disciplined. Dr. ALBERT P. WHEELER, a citizen physician, is acting as surgeon under an appointment by Gov. PIERPOINT, Dr. JOHN T. WHARTON, Assistant. Some distrust of the competency of the surgeon has been entertained, on the ground of intemperate habits, but I could learn of no abuse from that cause. A good supply of medicines was obtained by requisition on the Medical Director, Dr. WRIGHT of Cincinnati, while the hospital was in charge of Dr. BARR, Surgeon 36th Regiment O. V.

The hospital is well supplied with fresh meat and vegetables from the hospital fund; also milk, butter, and other necessaries of subsistence.

The number of sick in hospital, 38. Treated the last month, 109. Deaths, 1.

#### HOSPITAL FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS, WHEELING, VA.

(Inspected October 12th, 1861.)

The arrangement for the treatment of disabled soldiers, was made by Maj. OAKES, in this city, prior to the organization of the government of Western Virginia. Dr. LOGAN, a respectable drug-

gist, was authorized to act as Post Surgeon, and a contract was made with the Catholic hospital in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, to receive and attend to the sick at \$3,50 each per week. Dr. LOGAN employs a physician to attend the patients, whether at his own cost or at the expense of the Government, I have been unable to learn. The medicines are supplied from Dr. Logan's store.

In my inspection of the Catholic Hospital, I could not learn the number of soldiers that have been treated there. I was informed however, that as many as thirty had been in at a time, but now reduced to sixteen. But three deaths are said to have occurred. The treatment in hospital, in food and attention, I have no doubt has been good.

#### CAMPS AND HOSPITALS IN THE VALLEY OF THE KANAWHA.

\* \* \* I reached the head-quarters of Brigadier General W. S. ROSECRANS, commander of the army of Western Virginia, October 22d. The camp of Gen. ROSECRANS is situated two miles east or south-east of Gauley Bridge, and on New River, the union of which with Gauley River, forms the Kanawha. The ascent from the ferry which crosses the mouth of the Gauley River, is about 500 feet. The road leads along the left bank of New River beneath over-hanging cliffs one and two hundred feet high, for a quarter of a mile, and then rapidly ascends in a tortuous course. The camp is known as "Tompkins' Farm," the owner, of that name, being a colonel in the rebel service on the opposite side of New River.

The camp is neatly laid out, on a gentle slope descending south-east, and directly in front of Tompkins' house, which is guarded against spoils, and its inmates, four children and attendants, protected by order of the General. I was happy to find myself recognized from a former official interview, and treated with all the consideration due the Commission. The Quartermaster, Capt. C. M. GOULDING, afforded me every facility I could ask in transport to the distant camps.

From the returns accompanying this, you will learn the general and relative situations of all the brigades and isolated camps inspected. That of Gen. BENHAM, embracing the 10th, 12th and 13th Regiments, O. V., is reported under the best police management. This is due, measureably, to Gen. BENHAM's personal care

for his regiments, and also the efficient attendance of Dr. GEO. G. SHUMARD, Brigade Surgeon. The large amount of sickness in these regiments, is referable to the severity of the service they have endured, thus over-balancing the advantages of strict sanitary police.

My attention was often called to the fact that this portion of the army is supplied with coffee in the sack, in witnessing the process of roasting and grinding or pounding in camp. The roasting is usually done in the camp kettle, by which means it is often rendered perfectly inodorous, or in other words, it is burned black. The pounding is done in the same vessel, often with the butt of the musket. Of course, coffee prepared in this way makes not only an innutritious beverage, but it is absolutely injurious. If coffee could be properly roasted and ground without sophistication, and packed in twelve-pound tin cans, or tin pails with bails and covers, the Government would make a vast saving in many ways, while the army would derive a great benefit from its use. Put up in the manner last specified, an article of great convenience in camp would be supplied.

The employment of a non-combatant cook for each company of men seems to warrant, in the volunteer service, the serious consideration of the Government. Some regulation should be introduced to secure the provision of better-prepared food for the army. The abuses in this particular have unquestionably been among the great sources from which so much sickness has fallen upon our troops.

There are thirteen buildings occupied as hospitals in this column of the army. Excepting one at Point Pleasant, one at Charleston, and perhaps one at Gauley, all the others are altogether unfit for the occupation of the sick. Most of them are merely log tenements, some without glazed windows or means of heating. The sick, in some instances, lie upon loose straw upon the floor. Above Gauley, none had cots or bunks, but in some instances, rude bedsteads had been found and used. In several regiments the sick were treated in tents altogether. The Assistant Surgeon of the 12th Regiment, O. V., had constructed bunks of split timber, using barrel staves for bottom slats. He had also formed an earth flue which served to warm and dry the air in the tent, and the seven patients he had under treatment, were seemingly the best provided for of any above Gauley. A continued rain, however, would have



materially changed the appearance of his hospital. The skill exhibited in providing for his sick, with the perfect order and neatness, was highly creditable. The reasons given for the accumulation of so large a number of sick, were the difficulty of transporting them over the rough roads, and that there were no post hospitals accessible to which they could be sent.

U. S. MILITARY HOSPITAL, WHEELING, VA.

You are aware that I have been organizing a hospital here. A telegraph came on to the Quartermaster and to me from General ROSECRANS, through Dr. WIRTZ, ordering a hospital to be organized here, capable of holding four or five hundred. The Quartermaster returned a dispatch to send on the sick, without consulting me, and then delivered the dispatch to me. I had no alternative; a battle at Gauley was imminent, communication was cut off, and I felt that I must obey the order, not only as a duty to the General commanding, but from every consideration of humanity and justice. I immediately set myself at work, and last Wednesday got a building on Water street; to-day I have a hospital with 285 patients all bedded and in the most comfortable condition. The sick require the close attendance of two surgeons, and my time is constantly occupied from 5 A. M. to 11 and 12 P. M. To be sure I have gotten over the worst of it, but there is no one here yet who can make a requisition by authority. I have written to Dr. WIRTZ, and expect relief soon if a surgeon can be spared from above. I received 105 more men from a boat this morning, kept them separate from those previously in hospital, and had them all bathed and the sickest put regularly to bed by 3 P. M. To-night the hospital is as cheerful as a large hotel."

At a later date Dr. G. writes:

"I remain, as yet, the chief head of the hospital. \* \* \* I have ten female nurses and ten males. Without the women I would not undertake the control. The three ladies from Cleveland are rendering excellent service and were in good time. I supply the destitute with shirts, drawers and socks from the stores of the Sanitary Commission. Three hundred beds are furnished wholly or in part. I have 261 in hospital, have returned to duty 21, transfer to Covington, Kentucky, 23 to-morrow, and by first boat, send 48 back to duty. Deaths 3.

Since the date of my last report, the depot of hospital stores has been carefully and well managed by Mr. FRACKER, and has greatly increased in efficiency. The number of articles of bedding and clothing received up to this date is 10,770, the number distributed, 4,814.

### OHIO.

Ohio has now about 80,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, and several batteries of artillery, in the field or in camp. Of these, however, nearly all have left the limits of the State, and are included among those whose condition has received the attention of our inspectors in the different departments of the army to which they have been sent. As a general rule, they have left the State in excellent sanitary condition and, particularly those more recently recruited, well appointed and commanded by officers of ability and experience. To this rule, however, so creditable to the authorities, there have been some glaring, I may say, shameful exceptions. Even so late as the 25th November, I saw one regiment which had been up to that time on duty in Western Virginia, not yet provided with overcoats; and when, on their arrival at Cincinnati, *en route* for Kentucky, overcoats were offered them, they were of a quality so inferior that they were indignantly rejected. It is but just to state, however, that the State authorities have labored most ardently and earnestly to secure the proper equipment of her troops, and for their unwearied efforts and general success, are worthy of all honor.

Every exertion has been made to provide each regiment with surgeons fully qualified for their duties, and all that a competent examining board could do to secure this end has been done. The examination of candidates has been thorough and trying; and the appointments from those who have passed the ordeal just and judicious. A large number of these surgeons have, as I know, received the more important documents of the Commission and are fully impressed with the necessity of the observance of sanitary laws in camp life. Most of the regiments still remaining within the State have been inspected by our associate members, and their sanitary condition as reported by them is in the highest degree satisfactory.

Since my last report, Branch Commissions composed of Associate

members have been formed in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, which promise to be efficient auxiliaries in the work of the Commission.

At Cleveland, through the intervention of the Branch Commission, a portion of the Marine Hospital has been opened for the reception of such enlisted men, or those discharged from disability, as may be in need of assistance other than that furnished by the military authorities. The wards set apart for this purpose have been neatly furnished by the ladies of the Aid Society, and every possible provision made for the comfort of such as are entitled to the aid thus afforded. The number of cases requiring assistance has already been considerable, and it is evident that the opening of such a hospital will supply what has been a real want in Northern Ohio.

At Columbus the Branch Commission is composed of earnest, intelligent and influential men, who have already initiated an efficient system of sanitary measures in behalf of the troops stationed at Camp Chase. They will also prove active co-laborers in the general work of the Commission.

At Cincinnati our Branch Commission includes many of her best known and most philanthropic citizens. Its President is R. W. Burnett, Esq., now a full member of the Commission. By the request of the Cincinnati Branch, I was present at its organization, and can testify to the intelligence and zeal with which they have begun their labors. Much had previously been done for the relief of the soldiers by Dr. MUSSEY and other Associates, with the co-operation of the benevolent ladies of the city, in securing the opening of the Marine Hospital, bringing the sick soldiers from Camp Dennison, and gratuitously, though most faithfully providing for all their wants. More recently, however, the care of this hospital has been assumed by the War Department, and it has been filled to repletion by the sick brought down from the Kanawha. Having received a commission as Brigade Surgeon, Dr. MUSSEY still remains in charge.

I should also mention among the good works of the Cincinnatians, the formation of a Citizens' Relief Association, by whom large quantities of clothing and stores were collected and disbursed, by a committee appointed for that purpose, among the troops in Western Virginia. A most interesting report of the visit of this committee to Virginia has been published since their return.

Perhaps the most important exhibition of public benevolence on the part of the citizens of Ohio yet remains to be noticed. I allude to the organization and most efficient labors of the Soldiers' Aid Societies, composed of patriotic women who have devoted themselves with astonishing success to the preparation of hospital stores, bedding, clothing and edibles for the volunteers in the various divisions of the Army of the West. Through their agency a vast amount of good has been accomplished, suffering relieved, and undoubtedly, life preserved. Of these societies the more important are: that at Columbus, made auxiliary to the Commission by a recent vote, and that at Cleveland, which has been in operation since April last. With the workings of the latter Society I have been personally and constantly conversant. As these are fully set forth in the report of the Society—published as Document No. 37 by the Commission,—I need here only refer to the subject to say that by but one other similar organization in the country has more material aid been rendered to the cause of humanity in the present war, and in none more zeal and self-devotion, or more skill and energy displayed in the performance of a self-imposed task. By this efficient auxiliary of our Commission, over 69,000 articles of bedding, clothing, etc., have been collected and prepared, and over 40,000 distributed to meet the real and pressing wants of our soldiers.

#### KENTUCKY.

Since the publication of my last Report Kentucky has been opened as a new field for the operations of the Commission; one too important to be neglected; one, indeed, where the demand upon the intervention of the Commission has been so urgent as to require the employment of all the resources it could command for that district.

After months passed in a vain effort to maintain a position of neutrality, in a struggle not only of paramount but vital importance to every State and section of our country, Kentucky at last burst the shackles that the enemies both of her prosperity and of the Government had forced upon her, and came out boldly and fully for the Union; raised her quota of troops and supplies, and invoked the aid of her sister States in her efforts to punish the treason of her own disloyal citizens, and to repel the encroach-

ments of the Southern rebels invading her territory. Her cry for help was promptly answered; large numbers of troops from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania hurried to her rescue, and again the "Dark and bloody ground" became the seat of war.

Receiving sad accounts of the destitution and suffering, particularly of the hastily, and as yet imperfectly equipped Kentucky troops, and the loyal men of Tennessee who had been driven from their homes by the rebel forces, I felt it to be my duty to go to their relief. I therefore went to Kentucky in the latter part of October, taking with me two experienced surgeons, Drs. W. M. PRENTICE and A. N. READ, both of Ohio.

We were most cordially greeted on our arrival by the Rev. J. H. HEYWOOD, who had been since June an Associate member of the Commission. A meeting was at once called at his house, where a local Commission was organized, composed of men well known for their intelligence and patriotism throughout the West. A depot was immediately established, the coöperation of the loyal ladies of Louisville secured, and a course of usefulness entered upon which has been continued with unabated ardor and constantly increasing success up to the present time.

Though but incidental to the subject matter of this Report, I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration for the fervent loyalty exhibited both in actions and words by the many distinguished citizens of Kentucky which it was my pleasure to meet. In their patriotic devotion the greatest sacrifices have been cheerfully made, and the strongest ties of nature and affection unhesitatingly severed. The virtues of these noble men and women, burnished by the bitterest trials humanity can suffer, shine with a lustre which must be seen to be appreciated. My visit to Kentucky has been the saddest and yet most hope-inspiring episode of my experience in this fratricidal war, and I am sure I shall be pardoned for thus alluding to the instances of lofty self-consecration which I have witnessed.

At my instance the energies of the Louisville Commission and the ladies coöperating with them, were first directed to the supply of the pressing wants of the Tennessee and Kentucky troops, of warm and comfortable clothing; promising, as I did, to supply all needed hospital stores from the ample resources of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Cleveland, unreservedly placed at my disposal. I

found the medical directorship of the department of the Cumberland in the able hands of Dr. ROB. MURRAY, U. S. A., a gentleman of large views, fully alive to his responsibilities, but heavily burdened with his cares and duties. By him we were cordially received, and our proffered aid gratefully accepted. On his requisition and that of the President of the Louisville Commission, Dr. T. S. BELL, over two thousand sets of hospital bedding and clothing were at once forwarded to this point by the Cleveland Aid Society. The hospitals in Louisville were at this time greatly crowded by the sick rapidly concentrating there from the different columns of Gen. SHERMAN'S command; were defective in many particulars, and wanting in many things essential to the well-being of their inmates. A portion of these wants were supplied by the means already detailed, and the necessary changes and expansions of the hospital system were being as rapidly and thoroughly effected by the Medical Director as could be done with the means at his command. There, as elsewhere at the West, the entire absence of buildings well adapted to hospital purposes must forbid the hope that the general hospitals can ever be all that could be desired.

On acquainting myself with the distribution of the troops in Kentucky, Dr. READ was sent to examine into the condition and wants of those stationed on the line of the Nashville Railroad, south from Louisville, and such as were located along the Ohio, west from Louisville and east of Paducah. Dr. PRENTICE meanwhile, was requested to inspect the columns of Gen. THOMAS, south from Lexington, and that of Gen. NELSON, in the valley of the Licking. From these gentlemen requisitions were received from time to time for the supply of wants detected in the camps and hospitals which they visited. These requisitions were promptly filled, and during the month of November more than a hundred boxes of hospital stores were forwarded to Kentucky from Cleveland alone; and in addition large contributions were made by the patriotic ladies of Columbus, O., and Detroit, Mich. Dr. READ finished his round of inspection in about three weeks, forwarded detailed reports of twenty-four regiments, and a summary of his observations, from which I give the following extracts:

“As you requested, I have inspected the U. S. troops in the Western Department of the Cumberland. \* \* \*

"In making these inspection returns, it gives me pleasure to state to you that I have been received everywhere kindly and courteously.

Brig. General McCook gave me an introduction to his Brigade Surgeons, Drs. MEYLET and CHAMBERS, who entered cordially into the objects of my mission, and so far as they could find time accompanied me in my inspections at Camp Nevin; and otherwise rendered me all the aid in their power.

They expressed themselves as being greatly aided in their duties by my visit, from my efforts to co-operate with them in a common object.

Gens. JOHNSON, WOOD, ROSSEAU and NEIGLE, of Camp Nevin, and Gen. HAZZARD, of Camp Holman, furnished me with an attendant to each of the regiments in their respective brigades, and "furthered the inquiries and objects of my mission to the utmost of their ability."

The officers and the Medical Staff of the regiments visited received me as one who was working with them for a common object.

The manner of my examinations was as follows: after an introduction to the commanding officer and the Surgeons, I asked that, if it would in no respect interfere with military duties, the Captains of the companies might be called, and that I might be introduced to them. After the introduction, I stated to them, in few words, the object of my visit, and asked them to go with me to the tents of their respective companies—then to return and listen to the questions I was required to answer.

They were always courteous, and usually showed a commendable desire to learn their duties more perfectly. They often asked me for a copy of the inspection returns, that they might have the benefit of the suggestions made by those questions.

After asking and answering those which had reference more particularly to the duties of the Captains, I thanked them for the kind manner in which they had given me aid, and detained them no longer.

I then with the Surgeons visited the sink, the hospital, the sutler's stores, and Commissary Department.

Returning to the Colonel's tent (unless, as was frequently the case, he accompanied me in these visits), I made to him and to the Surgeons such suggestions as seemed necessary.

As the result of these visits of inspection, I will give you some of the special characteristics of each regiment, where I found anything of interest, which may not be found in my printed reports.

——— *Regiment.*

I found camp streets, tents, spaces between tents, drains, and edges of the tents, filthy. Refuse slops were buried in trenches: but the trenches were nearly filled, before the dirt was filled in.

The men were undisciplined. The horses tied very near the tents, and their dung not removed. The cooking bad; the men dirty. In short, by want of cleanliness and attention to the requirements of civilized life, the men were in danger of losing all self-respect.

But I am glad to be able to add to this unpleasant statement of affairs, that I passed through the camp some days after—that I again saw the Colonel, the Surgeon and one of the Captains, who represented that they were making improvements, and assured me they would continue to do so. I can add my testimony to theirs that there was a decided improvement since my visit.

*Sixth Indiana Regiment,*

This was in excellent condition. The Colonel is a gentleman and a soldier, alive and active in his duties. The Surgeon, Dr. CHAS. S. SCHUSSLER, is eminently well qualified, and devotes himself untiringly to his duties. Guided by science, he is saving many lives by taking those precautions necessary to prevent sickness. Means were used to promote cheerfulness, and the men were in good spirits.

The streets of the camp are beautifully turnpiked and well drained. The tents are struck or raised from the bottom often. The slops are carefully disposed of, so as not to be in the least offensive, the men clean, their clothing well washed. The sink was on the leeward side of the camp, in the woods, at a proper distance, neither too far nor too near. A nice walk was cut to it through the woods, trees cut close to the ground, and felled in such a manner as to make even a beautiful fence on each side of the walk.

Most of the companies have built log houses, with fire-places and chimneys, for kitchens, well adapted for the use designed.



But two men were so sick but that they would join their regiment were an order given to march—one of these disabled by an accidental wound, the other sick with fever.

——— *Regiment.*

Tents crowded, only one foot apart in the rows. Men had not each two shirts; blankets very poor; scraps of food between the tents; sink sometimes used. Men would obtain ardent spirits, and were sent to the guard-house in consequence of intoxication—were allowed access to pedlars, from whom they obtained pies, cakes and fruits, to their injury.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Thirty-Second Indiana Regiment.*

Col. WILLICK'S German regiment, after recruiting commenced, in twelve days were mustered into service. The men are well disciplined and cleanly; police of the camp excellent. The Surgeon assured me that the men, as a rule, wash their feet, face, neck and hands once a day, and bathe once a week.

A regimental fund has been established after this manner: the regiment has one-half the profits of the sutler.

A shoemaker and a tailor are attached to each company. The men drink moderately of lager beer, and draw one pint of whiskey each morning for every twelve men.

——— *Ohio Regiment.*

Were furnished with poor, very light blankets. Nine of them had no overcoats. The body coat was a light summer blouse—pants of the same quality. Men cooked by mess, poorly; bread hard, old, poor.

——— *Ohio Regiment.*

Camp in fair condition, men in good health, but had no overcoats, and no body coats but a light blouse.

*Thirty-Fourth Illinois Regiment.*

Health unusually good—the medical staff very efficient. The regiment had been systematically vaccinated—the only one I found that had been. The camp and men were unusually cleanly—sink in excellent condition. The dung made by the horses was removed, so as not to be in the least offensive. The hospital, in

excellent condition, had comfortable beds, (the only one I found which had,) and a supply of delicacies and cordials. It was almost a luxury to be sick there compared with most regimental hospitals.

— *Indiana Regiment.*

Was encamped on a low bottom-land, the surface dry, but unfavorable for drainage; the tents crowded in the rows; too many men in a tent; the police of the camp not as good as the average; and although there was not a greater number sick than in many other camps, the sickness was more severe, and was increasing. In looking for the cause, we could not find it in the water used, in the cooking, nor in the police of the camp; but on digging, at from one to two feet, in all parts of the camp, we found water. The dampness was such, that it would gather in large drops upon the lower side of the rubber blankets used by the men while sleeping. The Surgeons of the regiment, with Brigade Surgeons MYLERT and CHAMBERS, united with me in a request to Gen. McCook, that, if practicable, the regiment might be moved. The General received the request very cordially, and immediately ordered the removal to drier, higher, and better-aired grounds. I have no doubt but by this the men will be greatly benefitted and many lives saved.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth and Seventy-Ninth Pennsylvania Regiments.*

In good health and well supplied with everything but bread. They were, mostly, drawing flour instead of bread, and were using flap-jacks—flour mixed with water and fried in grease; this, if continued, must produce sickness.

*Ninth Michigan Regiment.*

Men suffering severely from measles. They were exhausted by hard work in the rain and loss of sleep on their march to camp; and I have no doubt but the severity, if not the number, of cases was increased by that cause. 300 were sick in hospital, being in different houses, with bad ventilation, no beds, and no means of changing the clothing worn in camp. (Wants since fully supplied.—N.)

— *Regiment.*

Camp unclean; been occupied but a week or ten days; expecting to move soon. The sink used but a little more than the ground in the vicinity, from which there is a gentle slope to a small stream of surface water some few yards distant, from which all the water used in camp is obtained. It would be hardly extravagant to say that the sink was the fountain-head of the stream. The men complained, and had the promise of moving to a better location.

— *Indiana Regiment.*

Police good. Cooking done by Company cooks, three cooks to each Company, changing one every two weeks; cooking done better than usual. Measels have been prevalent, but most have now had them and are convalescent.

*Nineteenth Illinois Regiment.*

W. BOGUE, the Surgeon, and also the Assistant Surgeon, are both well qualified for their duties. The troops are in good condition, encamped on the side of a hill, the Colonel's tent being at the top, overlooking the encampment. Natural drainage so good that very little artificial was necessary. The sick in the hospital were well cared for, and although two were very sick they would probably recover. The boys had taken possession of the *Elisabethtown Democrat*, a secesh paper, and in its place were publishing the *Zouave Gazette*, a paper of "decided Union tendencies."

During the three weeks I was engaged in this inspection, I visited twenty-four regiments, two companies of artillery, three parts of regiments of infantry and two companies of cavalry. The most important results of the inspection are:

1st. Calling the attention of the troops to the necessity of a better system of camp police.

2d. Endeavoring to secure better cooking of food and making of coffee, substituting for the wasteful and unhealthy but too common mode of cooking by frying, the better mode of stewing or making soups.

3d. Calling the attention of the surgeons to the importance of systematic vaccination, which they seemed to feel, and which they promised to attend to as soon as they could obtain the virus.

4th. Urging the men, through the captains of companies, to greater cleanliness, both of their tents and persons.

There seems to be difficulties in the way of general bathing, or washing the body, in cold weather.

5th. Securing the removal of the Thirtieth and Thirty-Ninth Indiana Regiments from unhealthy to more healthy camps.

6th. An additional stimulus was given to all in authority to attain to a more thorough police of the camps.

This was evinced by the interest manifested by all in command in the object of my visit, and especially by an order issued by Brigadier-General WOOD to each regiment in his command, calling their attention to the importance of the subject and requiring its better performance.

Before closing this Report, I would remark that the soldiers suffer from what they find at the Sutlers'. They spend their money for much that injures them. The medical men whom I met were decidedly of this opinion, as were also many of the commanding officers. Can anything be done to prevent this source of disease and waste of money, at the same time the soldier to be supplied with the few articles needed, such as stationery and tobacco?"

Dr. PRENTICE found the troops in his district much scattered, difficult of access, and in constant motion. Up to the present time no detailed report of their condition has reached me, though I have received several requisitions for hospital stores, which have been filled, and letters attesting his earnestness and success.

The forced marches performed by the columns of Gens. NELSON and THOMAS have been peculiarly severe and trying, and by their influence the number of sick in each command was suddenly doubled. While I will not pretend to pass judgment upon the military necessity in each case, I am constrained to say that only the most urgent need could justify the infliction of so much suffering, disease and death upon our troops.

Through the agency of Dr. P. and the exertion of Dr. BELL, of Louisville, a society for the relief of the wants of the troops has been organized at Lexington, where Dr. P. was most kindly received, and in many ways aided in the performance of his duties. To Dr. CHIPLEY, the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum, and Mr. JAMES HARPER, the Agent of Adams Express, he reports himself under peculiar obligations.

In a letter just received, Dr: PRENTICE says :

“I give you the following list of hospitals which I have visited, and the larger part of which I have furnished with bedding and clothing received from Soldiers' Aid Societies in Ohio and Kentucky :

Frankfort-----	60	Patients,	furnished	supplies.
Lexington-----	220	do.	do.	do.
Nicholasville-----	30	do.	do.	do.
Camp Dick Robinson	200	do.	do.	do.
Brick Church-----	100	do.	do,	do.
Lancaster-----	30	do.	do.	do.
Crab Orchard-----	440	do.	do.	do.
London-----	620	do.	do.	do. in part.
Mt. Vernon-----	72	do.	do.	do.
Stanford-----	49	do.	do.	do.
Danville-----	185	do.	do.	do.
Baptist Church-----	42	do.	do.	do.
Lebanon-----	320	do.	do.	do.
New Haven-----	93	do.	do.	do.
Louisville-----	1000	do.	do.	do. in part.

The greater portion of the sick were in badly ventilated buildings. I have made it a point to visit every part of each, and give my personal attention to the sinks, water, cooking arrangements, cleanliness of the patients, clothing and bedding, police of the hospital, &c.; when in tents, the drainage, &c. The latter, together with the sinks for hospital patients, have been much neglected. I am happy to say that on the second visit made, there was usually a decided change for the better.

One fruitful source of sickness among the soldiers, is the *want of ventilation of the tents*; among those I have inspected, the wedge tent predominating. I have recommended the officers to attend in person to the ventilation at night, also the airing them as often as twice a week, and I am happy to say the report of the surgeon, where this has been done, shows the sickness and mortality to have decreased.

At Lebanon and Springfield I found nine cases of small pox, and I have urged upon the surgeons of regiments the necessity of general vaccination, but the difficulty in procuring vaccine matter for so many regiments, has prevented, in many cases, its being done. I sent to friends in Ohio and procured some, and at this date, most of those in Gen. THOMAS' division have been, or are being vaccinated. The Medical Director has been unable to procure one-half

that was needed." (I have since supplied large quantities to Kentucky.—N)

With the number of troops now occupying Kentucky, and with the probability that this will be the scene of active operations during the winter, it seems to me desirable that two good inspectors should be constantly employed in this field. By this means, and the efficient measures of relief at our command, we may confidently anticipate that the instances of destitution and suffering, hitherto so common, may be wholly prevented or made extremely rare.

### ILLINOIS.

In Illinois, I have the pleasure of reporting a general and most enthusiastic devotion to the cause of the Government in the present war; the enlistment and generally thorough equipment of over 50,000 troops; the most careful scrutiny into the qualifications of Surgeons by an excellent Medical Board; and an efficient and well-organized system of co-operation with the Sanitary Commission in the work for which it was created. A large number of the troops of this State have been inspected by myself, either in their camps of instruction or in the field, and I can bear testimony to the care which has supervised their organization and equipment, their admirable physique, good behavior, and soldierly bearing. The excellent sanitary condition of those at Camp Butler, near Springfield, under the medical care of Dr. LORD, merits special notice, and reflects great credit on his thoroughness. During the two months preceding my visit, in a force of five thousand men, there had been but three deaths from disease, and an average of less than thirty cases in hospital. It is but just to state, also, that the good condition of these troops is in a great measure due to the assiduous attention to their wants by Capt. PITCHER, U. S. A., an energetic, experienced and enlightened officer, for a long time in command of this camp.

At Chicago a Branch Commission has been formed, composed of earnest, philanthropic men, who have already given evidence of their energy by the organization of a complete system for the supply of the wants of the soldiers; have established a depot; issued an appeal to the public; have collected and distributed a large amount of hospital stores; and have sent committees of their number to inspect the camps and hospitals at Paducah, Cairo,

Bird's Point, St. Louis, and other places in the interior of Missouri. The report of one of these committees has been authorized as a document of our Commission, and affords conclusive evidence of the zeal and intelligence of the authors. I was present at the organization of the Chicago Commission, and have subsequently been an eye-witness of the working of their system, and bear cheerful testimony to the wisdom and activity which have characterized their operations. Of this Commission, Hon. MARK SKINNER is President, E. W. BLATCHFORD Corresponding, and H. E. SEELYE Recording Secretary.

The condition of the troops in the vicinity of Cairo is so fully described in the report of Messrs. PATTON and ISHAM, of the Chicago Branch Commission, and in that prepared by Dr. AIGNER, herewith given, that nothing more remains for me to say upon that subject. Of the operations of the Sanitary Commission at this point, I will say briefly that Dr. A. has continued during the three months passed, the important and acceptable duties to which I have alluded in my former report. Through his agency much has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the forces stationed in this vicinity, both by the exercise of his well-earned influence and the distribution of a very large amount of hospital stores, received from Chicago, Cleveland, and the Woman's Central Association of New York. In the performance of his duties as Sanitary Inspector, Dr. A. has enjoyed the cordial sympathy and efficient aid of Gen. U. S. GRANT, of whose intelligent appreciation of his mission and unvarying kindness he speaks in the strongest terms. With Drs. SIMMONS and TAGGART, U. S. A., the Medical Director and Purveyor, his relations have always been of a most friendly character, and from these gentlemen he has met a spirit of hearty co-operation which has rendered their intercourse agreeable, and materially facilitated a thorough performance of the duties of each.

#### DR. AIGNER'S REPORT.

"Being about to bring my labors as Camp and Hospital Inspector of the Sanitary Commission in this Department, to a close, after a service of three months, I transmit you the following synopsis of my observation as recorded in my detailed inspection returns.

Such a review cannot fail to present many defects in regard to

completeness and accuracy of statistics, from the nature of the case, and the short-comings of the observer. The different bodies of troops inspected being scattered over a large extent of territory, their condition had to be investigated at different periods of time, and their constant changes in location and number, as well as their very progress from the state of inexperienced organizations of raw recruits, to well-disciplined corps of an effective army, make a statement which was perfectly correct as to the condition of a regiment several weeks ago, appear false or unjust if we apply it to its actual state to-day. Keeping these difficulties and disturbing influences in mind, I shall attempt to give you a description of the average condition of the volunteer forces which it has been my duty to inspect from the beginning of August to the end of October, referring you to my special returns for details recorded at given days and places.

1.—*Description and General Character of Troops Inspected.*

The troops inspected by me, are stationed in Cairo and Mound City, Ill., Bird's Point and Cape Girardeau, Mo., Fort Holt and Paducah, Ky., in the south-east division of the Department of the West. The bodies inspected are, twenty-three regiments of infantry, a regiment and several detached companies of cavalry, (fifteen altogether) and ten companies of artillery, forming two divisions under Gens. U. S. GRANT and CHAS. F. SMITH, or seven brigades under Gens. McCLEARNAND, PAINE, L. WALLACE, and Cols. COOK, OGLESBY, WM. H. WALLACE and PLUMMER. All these troops, with the exception of two regiments of infantry each, from Missouri, Indiana and Iowa, are recruited in Illinois, forming one-half the troops furnished by that State, actually in the field. The predominating nativity is American, only a few regiments containing a considerable quota of Germans; for instance the 9th Illinois, while the foreign element in the rest is insignificantly small, if we except some cavalry and artillery companies. The 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Illinois, and the 7th Indiana, were originally three-months regiments, nearly all the officers and many of the men re-enlisting for the war after the expiration of their first term. The others were organized and mustered into U. S. service for three years, at different periods of time, from May to September. The 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 22d Illinois, and four



companies of artillery and cavalry, were already here when I arrived; the others came from different camps of instruction in their respective states, or active service in Missouri, by a more or less direct route. The present strength of the whole, is in the neighborhood of 19,000 men; considerably higher than the aggregate of all regiments and detached companies at the time of their being mustered in.

### 2.—*Character of Camp Sites.*

The camp sites were in all cases selected by the commanders of the respective divisions or brigades, military considerations outweighing all others in most instances. "Military necessity" was also the frequent excuse for the otherwise unwarrantable practice of making a newly-arrived regiment occupy the site just vacated by one ordered off—a practice which led to some bad consequences in a sanitary point of view, with several regiments encamped on Bird's Point (18th, 20th and 22d.) Excepting the camps of the 7th Illinois and 11th Missouri at Cape Girardeau, I found those of all regiments on level ground, on the banks of the Mississippi and Ohio, or between the levees at Cairo; more or less unfavorable for surface drainage; unshaded, except those at Paducah, and one (11th Ill.) at Bird's Point; sheltered from the prevailing winds except two at Fort Holt, and one (11th Mo.) at Cape Girardeau; with a soil and sub-soil of sand and clay mixed in various proportions, easily permeable to water, (except to a certain degree, 40th Ill. and 7th Ind. at Paducah,) but unfortunately, all exposed in a high degree to the poison of malaria. A glance at the annexed synopsis of the consolidated reports of sick and wounded, will show you the consequences of this exposure. As you have investigated personally the character of soil and climate in those portions of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, I need not mention the local conditions of malaria, in this short and hurried review.

### 3.—*Arrangement and Condition of Camps.*

I found the camps arranged mainly in accordance with the army regulation, wherever the locality and the circumstances would permit it. The tents were, on an average, nine yards apart in the rows, the artificial drainage systematic and complete, (except 7th Iowa, 8th Mo., 23d Indiana, 18th, 22d, 40th and 41st Ill.) with

straight drains averaging four inches in depth and six in width, around tents, deeper and wider mains, kept tolerably clean, but rarely with a good outlet. I found the tent floors almost always very dry, even after heavy rains; a good feature, less due to systematic drainage and other care, than to the above-mentioned very porous nature of the soil. In many instances, the commanding officers told me that their men were taught to drain their tents by an inundating shower. Necessity is the best, though not always the mildest and cheapest teacher of sanitary measures, as of so many other things. Camp streets, edges of, and spaces between tents very clean in most regiments, except 8th and 11th Mo., 2d and 7th Iowa, 18th, 22d, 40th and 41st Ill., at different periods of time.

#### 4.—*Tents, their Character, Ventilation and Management.*

The two Missouri, 8th and 11th Illinois regiments are provided with a large number of Fremont tents, the 7th Ill. with wall, and the 41st Ill. with English or oval tents; the rest are, for the men, a small wedge tent, furnished by their respective states, of various sizes, but invariably too small for the number of men crowded into them, and of inferior material. Commissioned and non-commissioned officers in all the regiments, use mostly the wall, some the Sibley or Fremont, but none the wedge tent. I look upon this description of tent (wedge) and its almost universal use for the men as the more unfortunate because the rule for striking the tents for the purposes of ventilation and cleaning, is still not frequently enough practiced by most regiments. The skirts of the wall, Fremont and Sibley tents can be raised so easily that the men will do it of their own accord, and this practice furnishes a tolerably good substitute for striking the tents, as far as airing and drying of the floors is concerned. The wedge tent does not admit of it, and this defect, together with its insufficient size, ought to condemn its use altogether. The usual average of men to a 7x9x7 wedge tent is five. The care of the ventilation of tents at nights, is left in almost all cases to the men. During the last week of October the troops around Cairo received orders to construct barracks of logs and boards, for winter quarters, and three regiments have moved into the old huts in Camp Defiance, formerly occupied by the 8th, 9th and 10th Ill. The 9th and 10th Ill. have been under tents only a short time.

5.—*Bedding and Clothing.*

During August and September the men of almost all the regiments slept on the bare ground, straw or hay being scarce, and lumber not to be had, on account of want of funds in the hands of the Quartermaster. With the cool weather of October came a great demand for these articles, but the supply was insufficient; and in many regiments the men suffered from cold during the night. The great majority of the men have two shirts and one blanket; very few can make a change of clothing at night. The very poor blankets furnished to most regiments at first, have nearly in all given place to more serviceable ones; but even these are inferior in weight and texture compared with the regular U. S. A. blankets. With very few exceptions, all companies are provided with light-blue overcoats of good quality. The quality of the uniform coats and trowsers is very fair, although the new are not in all instances an improvement over the old ones. The 7th Indiana, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, and 22d Illinois, with some artillery companies, wear gray, the rest blue uniforms. In the cut of the body coats great variations have been indulged. From the immense number of photograph and ambrotype likenesses which the "boys" have made of themselves when they receive their uniforms, I conclude that they take considerable pride in them, at least as long as they are new; but I am sorry to see that only few volunteers understand the great military art of making an old uniform appear as neat as a new one. The removal of dust from their clothing is a weekly, not a daily, practice with most men, the inspection for that purpose being made too rarely and negligently by regimental and company commanders. The underclothing is regularly washed once a week in all regiments.

6.—*Personal Cleanliness.*

During the warm weather the men bathed and washed frequently, the facilities for ablution in this Department being unsurpassed. In very few regiments, however, was a regular practice and inspection by officers instituted to that effect. The washing of the feet is not regularly looked after by the commissioned or non-commissioned officers of any regiment. Body lice have troubled but very few men; fleas, on the contrary, have been, and still are a scourge of all our camps. On the whole, the volunteers keep their persons as clean as the generality of people in the localities they come from.

7.—*Cleanliness of Camps.*

The camps present generally a very clean appearance as far as the streets between the tents are concerned. The rules in regard to the daily collection and burial of kitchen and mess refuse, horse dung, etc., are not strictly kept by any regiments with the exception of perhaps two or three. The privies are all at a proper distance from camps, and properly constructed, but the great difficulty is to make all the men go there and nowhere else at all times. In three or four regiments the men are prevented from easing themselves elsewhere by the guards, and rigidly punished for any violation of this regulation; but the territory surrounding the camps of all others presents many evidences of gross neglect of camp police, and gives many a regiment, otherwise well reputed, a bad odor. Separate officers' sinks I have frequently heard spoken of, but I must confess that I never saw one except in some buildings which served as head-quarters to some commander. The horses and mules are almost invariably kept too near the camps, and the daily removal of their dung is a myth dreamed of only by the authors of the army regulations and the Sanitary Commission Inspectors.

8.—*Water, Source and Quality.*

All regiments in Cairo, Mound City, Fort Holt and Birds Point drink Ohio or Mississippi water; in Cape Girardeau and Paducah, well or spring water is used by most regiments. The water of some of the latter is deemed unwholesome by some surgeons, but I am not aware of any scientific investigations of the qualities of the water procured from them having been made. The free use of ice, which was very liberally furnished to all the troops during the hot season, has, in my opinion, had more to do with the prevalence of certain diseases in July, August and September, than any unwholesome character of the water used as a drink.

9.—*Rations and Cooking.*

The requisitions for the rations are in all regiments made by the captains, who, in many companies, mess with the men, and then, of course, examine and taste the food for the latter. Even where this is not the case, I have never heard any complaints by the men regarding the quantity or quality of the rations. Instead of want there is waste in many cases. Now and then the men will grumble

at the uniformity of their meals, which they try to vary by purchasing pies or fruit out of their private purse; but even this fault-finding is disappearing gradually, as the several companies learn how to save and trade off their surplus rations for articles of food not furnished by government. I can state from personal inquiry and observation, that every well man in this force gets fresh meat three times and fresh vegetables twice if not oftener, a week, while he has his choice between fresh and hard bread, every day. This has been the case, not during the entire period of the war, but during nearly the whole of my stay here, and consequently the monthly reports of surgeons have a steady diminution of scurvy until September, when we find only one man in 9,000 afflicted with that scourge of armies. The cooking is done, with very few exceptions, on the unbroken ground, but in all regiments I found the ingenuity of soldiers at work constructing hearths out of railroad iron, stones, logs, &c., facilitating the operations of cooks. Nearly one-half of all the companies have permanent cooks, and the principle of rotation in office is gradually dying out as far as that of cook is concerned. How is the food generally cooked? Very fairly, for men who are satisfied or have to be satisfied with such materials as the Government furnishes. There are many men and women who would not eat it unless dying from starvation; but these people are fortunately not soldiers; while many a laboring man's family would regard the common diet of our volunteers as a holiday feast. I have enjoyed many a soldier's-dinner with relish, except their coffee, which is uniformly bad (when made) and such dainties as crackers fried in fat of pork, or cakes made of flour and water, dainties which the men will persist in preparing and eating in spite of the remonstrances of their surgeons and officers. The bread is baked by contract bakers, or got from town bakeries in trade for rations; it is, as a rule, very good. The use of tea instead of coffee, is gaining ground in most regiments, by the efforts of surgeons.

#### 10.—*Company Fund.*

I have found very few captains who had a clear idea of such an arrangement, and even now, the number of companies in which it has been established, is very small.

11.—*Sutlers.*

All regiments have sutlers with the exception of two, appointed by the colonels, (except in the 8th Ill.) The prices of articles sold by them are fixed by a council of administration in about one-half of all the regiments. I met about a dozen of regimental staff officers who heard of such a council for the first time, when I asked them if there was such an institution in their regiments.

12.—*Intoxication.*

The sale of ardent spirits is now prohibited in all the camps by general orders; formerly, some sutlers were allowed to sell them to the men, with a permission from their captain. The habit of getting them out of camp, has been pretty effectually broken by general orders, closing all the bars in Cairo, Paducah, &c. These orders came very timely, as all the regiments are being paid off, and the temptation of spending money in drink seems to be much stronger among the men than one might suppose from the assertions of regimental and company commanders in relation to the temperate habits of their men. The number of men sent to the guard-house is very small in all regiments, and intoxication is the cause in most instances. I frequently had to express my astonishment at the small numbers given as the average of arrests. I am, however, not yet prepared to decide whether this startling fact is due to the excellent discipline and subordination of the men, or to excessive mildness of the officers, many of whom are decidedly more fond of popularity with the men and their friends at home, than of rigid discipline. Pedlars of eatables, and of non-intoxicating drinks, are allowed access to the men in most camps. I have endeavored, and I believe successfully in most instances, to introduce the principle of inspecting their articles before giving them permission to sell, into nearly all the camps.

13.—*Absences from Camp.*

Officers and men are kept strictly in camp, except when on duty or leave of absence, and the number of such leaves does not exceed on an average, four to a company.

14.—*Recreation.*

The spirits of the men are excellent, as a general thing, but as to the means of keeping them in that state, they are left entirely

to their own resources. Bands of music, all of very primitive skill in execution, are found in most regiments. The other means, however, usually resorted to by civilized society, to cheer up depressed spirits, are used either not at all, or at least not systematically.

#### 15.—*Benefit Societies.*

The spirit of benevolence and mutual assistance manifested itself, up to this time, only in individuals, and has not yet assumed the form of an organization in any body of this command. The delayed payment of the troops has offered me very few opportunities to judge of the saving propensities of our regiments here, but I understand that Adams Express Co. has transmitted since the first pay-day, to the friends whom the soldiers left behind them, small sums of money, varying from fifteen to fifty dollars, in such numbers that the total amounts to fully one-half the aggregate paid to all the soldiers here. It is believed that two-thirds of the men send home at least half their pay. The allotment system is favorably received by all officers to whom I mentioned it, but has, as yet, not been practically carried out.

#### 16.—*Discipline.*

The general discipline of the troops under my observation, is slowly but steadily improving. The "armed mob" is being transformed into an efficient army, although an eye accustomed to the looks of well educated and drilled soldiers, would still find many faults and deficiencies. Our officers are as far removed from a *punctilious* enforcement of the outward signs of military discipline, as the men from their ready and constant observation. The rollicking independence of these youthful spirits, is too strong for the straight jacket of any martinet.

I have seen brigade parading but not manœuvering, in this department; the batallion drill of most regiments is creditable, and what is still better, our troops have been victorious in all conflicts with the enemy in which they were engaged.

#### 17.—*Medical Inspection on Enlistment.*

All the regiments, except those organized in Missouri, have undergone a medical inspection before entering the U. S. service, by surgeons employed for that purpose by their respective State

governments; but it was not thorough, and the subsequent inspections by the regimental surgeons were in almost all cases conducted with similar negligence. This explains the occurrence of very numerous applications for discharge on account of disability not acquired in the service—applications granted only in a small proportion, for fear of reducing the strength of regiments. From my own observations in camps and hospitals, I must come to the conclusion that one-tenth of all the men would be rejected on a thorough and rigid examination. Up to this date, (Nov. 1st) re-vaccination after enlistment has not been systematically practised in a single regiment.

#### 18.—*Medical Officers.*

All the regimental medical officers, excepting those of the 8th and 11th Missouri, 7th and 23d Indiana, 30th and 31st Illinois Regiments, have undergone an examination by Medical Boards appointed by their respective governments for that purpose. All hold their commissions from the State Governors, except those of the two Missouri Regiments. Most of them have practised in the locality where the regiment was recruited, and are, doubtless, considered very good "family doctors" in their neighborhood. The number of thoroughly educated, well qualified and experienced *Surgeons* among them is, however, very small, judging from their previous history as given by themselves, and from what I have seen of, or heard from them in my personal intercourse with them. As they are, with few exceptions, the very men to whom the volunteers would have applied for assistance in cases of sickness or accident at home, the Government will certainly not be blamed by the officers and men for employing them as their medical attendants in the field, no matter what the value of their services may be when judged by the absolute standard of true science.

#### 19.—*Hospitals, Ambulances, &c.*

The whole force described in Sect. 1, has three general and twenty-six regimental or corps hospitals. The general hospitals are: one at Cairo, one at Mound City, and one at Paducah. Of the last I shall not speak, as it was just being organized at the time of my visit to the regiments stationed at that place, and has since been moved from the old Marine Hospital building into the Court



House, the interior of which I have not seen. Brigade Surgeon HEWITT, the acting Medical Director of the Paducah Division, has the superintendence of this hospital, at which six Sisters of Charity act as nurses.

The general hospital at Mound City, the largest and most important of the three, is located in a row of twelve brick buildings of equal size and construction, excepting the first and last, which form projecting wings; with separate entrances, and no communication but the newly-constructed wooden balconies in the rear, leading to the privies. The buildings are three stories high, with one room on each floor, 20x75x14, originally intended for stores. The two upper rooms are or will be used as wards; the lower for administration or store rooms, &c. At present only eight of these wards are furnished with beds, containing three hundred patients. I say, purposely, furnished with beds, because I saw no other furniture in them, besides a few camp stools. Capt. HAWKINS, U. S. A., lately arrived here to superintend the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, proceeded to procure everything that his Departments can furnish to a hospital. If he keeps this promise, his arrival will have been a perfect God-send to the medical officers, patients and attendants of this hospital, which, from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1, received more than five hundred patients, but not a single article necessary to the comfort of its patients or the convenience of their attendants, from the Government besides beds, bedding, cooking and mess utensils, articles of food and drugs; not even a single candlestick could be procured. This destitution is due to either the poverty or negligence of the Quartermaster's Department. A large quantity of hospital clothing has been sent to the hospital by the ladies of New York and Cleveland, through the agency of the Sanitary Commission. Brig. Surgeon FRANKLIN and three assistants have at present charge of this hospital. The general hospital at Cairo—a new three-story brick building, originally intended for hospital purposes, and of sufficient dimensions to hold one hundred and twenty patients—is supplied with everything that is absolutely necessary, and as many comforts as may be reasonably expected in a military hospital, including donations from the Soldiers' Aid Society in Cleveland, and others. The number of patients at present under treatment ranges from seventy-five to one hundred men.

Of the regimental hospitals, seven are in tents (on Bird's Point and at Fort Holt), the rest in frame buildings at Cairo, Mound City, Cape Girardeau and Paducah; the latter tolerably well suited for such a purpose in summer, but not in cold weather, being badly ventilated, and having no proper heating apparatus. Each hospital has the proper number of detailed men allowed by the regulations as nurses; only ten have female nurses of Miss Dix's Corps. The supply of medicines and instruments is as liberal as the most energetic activity and foresight of a Medical Purveyor can make it; that of sheets, hospital dresses, &c., still deficient in many regiments. The U. S. A. Hospital Department has supplied a large number of sheets, bed ticks, pillow ticks and cases, blankets (over 2,000); and the following articles have been distributed by myself to the hospitals as gifts of patriotic Ladies' Societies: sheets 680, shirts 902, drawers 290, pillows 55, pillow ticks 90, pillow cases 456, towels 333, handkerchiefs 168, bed gowns 24, woolen socks 150, soft shoes 42, pads 13, bed ticks 25, two boxes of lint and bandages, &c. Jellies and other delicacies are greatly needed in all the hospitals, the previous donations of these articles being completely exhausted. Two ambulances for the whole force and an average of two stretchers for each regiment make up the apparatus for field service; it is, therefore, no wonder that the drilling of the Ambulance Corps has not yet begun in any regiment or brigade.

#### 20.—*Prevailing Diseases.*

The prevailing diseases during July, August and September, were diarrhœa and dysentery, malarious fevers and measles; in October, malarious fevers, measles, catarrhal and rheumatic affections. In August, 310 were sent to general hospital; in September, 603; in October, about 800. The total of sick men (taking the regiments from which complete monthly reports are in my possession, as a basis of calculation) was in July 2,939, in August 5,820, in September 9,150, and in October 8,900; the differences being explained partially by fluctuations in the strength of the force, partially by the absolute increase in the amount of sickness. The number of serious cases in the regimental hospitals is very great. Most regiments have hospital accommodations for an average of forty patients. Surgeons and men are equally averse to availing

themselves of the advantages (?) of the general hospitals; and as a rule, only those cases which cannot be accommodated in the regimental hospital, on account of its being crowded with patients, are transferred to general hospital. In some regiments it has been the policy of the Surgeons to rid themselves of cases threatening a fatal result; hence the great mortality in general hospitals as compared with the regimental; and hence again an increased aversion of the men against the former. That this policy has increased the cost of our Hospital Department enormously, cannot be denied; but I am inclined to the opinion that it has led to some good results, of which I may speak hereafter. As soon as the regiments take the field, it will, of course, have to be totally abandoned. The contagious or infectious diseases were measles, mumps, and a few cases of typhus. If we except measles, the proper precautions were taken to prevent their spreading.

I have examined the complete morning reports of eight regiments for July, August and September, from which the daily average of sickness (new cases) appear as follows: July 12, August 15, September 20, to a regiment of 900 men. The differences between individual regiments are, however, very great. In August, for instance, we find the mean ratio of sickness in the

Eleventh Illinois Regiment	-----	29	per cent.
Ninth " "	-----	33	"
Twelfth " "	-----	33	"
Seventh " "	-----	37	"
Eighth " "	-----	47	"
Twenty-second " "	-----	63	"
Eighteenth " "	-----	143	"

Even taking into consideration the fact that the first five regiments were during that month composed of old three-month men and newly-arrived recruits, while all the men of the 22d and 18th were just passing through the third month of their service, the most dangerous to the health of the soldier, according to the experience of Army Surgeons, we cannot help looking for some other cause or causes of such glaring differences; and we find them, not in differences of diet, drink, or locality, but in the different observance of the rules of camp police and military hygiene. The 11th and 12th, standing among the healthiest of the list, were encamped on Bird's Point, like the 18th and 22d, on four or five hundred yards removed from the entrenchments, within which the

latter were cooped up, using the same food and drink; but the camp police and sanitary discipline of these regiments differed as widely as the relative amount of sickness among their men. In the same month (August) we had a total absolute increase of 884 cases of sickness over those in July, although the number of the force diminished from 7,227 to 6,103 during the same period; while these two regiments (18th and 22d) alone show in their monthly reports an increase of 874 cases in August over those in July, or only ten less than the increase in the whole force during the same period! These figures, compared with the description I gave of the camps of these typical regiments in my detailed returns, speak volumes for the value of sanitary science to army men.

An examination of the Surgeons' reports from these and some other regiments, shows the following ratios of sickness and mortality among them :

	July.	August.	September.
Taken sick of the whole force,-----	40.66 p. c.	62.73 p. c.	61.06 p. c.
Died of the whole force, } including {	0.249	0.377	0.470
“ “ sick,----- } accidents, {	0.612	0.601	0.770
“ “ whole force, } excluding {	0.152	0.295	0.418
“ “ sick,----- } accidents, {	0.372	0.473	0.734

The rapid rise in the mortality among the sick with exclusion of accidents, from 47 to 83 in 10,000, from August to September, is due to the greater prevalence of typhoid, typhus and severe malarious fevers. The October reports will show a still greater increase.

I could point out a great many more interesting facts embodied in these reports, were I not afraid to make this review too lengthy for your perusal. I send you a consolidated abstract of them for your own use.

The general health of the troops was improving in October, as far as the mere number of cases of sickness is concerned; the severity of their character was, however, increasing.

#### 21.—*Preventive Duty of Surgeons.*

The number of Surgeons who fully understood their responsibility as health officers to the regiments is very small, judging, not from the answers to questions 168-172 of my returns, but from the facts connected with their duties as such before my eyes. The adoption

of Gen. McCLELLAN's orders in reference to the duties of Brigade Surgeons, by Gens. GRANT and SMITH, and the arrival of four active and intelligent officers of that grade, will, I believe, make up now for any deficiencies of the Surgical Staff in this respect. Drilling before breakfast had been abandoned in most instances, and is prohibited now altogether by an order from Gen. GRANT. The average number of hours the men are on drill daily is five.

### 22.—*Arms and Accoutrements.*

With the exception of six regiments, provided with rifles and rifled muskets, all the infantry force is armed with the old smooth-bore musket, pronounced to be bad, and detested by nearly all the men. The weight of the knapsacks for heavy marching order is limited in almost all the regiments to twenty-five pounds. The cartridge boxes are sustained by shoulder straps.

---

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to nearly all the commanders of divisions, brigades and regiments, and the great majority of the Medical Staff, for many acts of courtesy and valuable assistance in the discharge of my duties, but especially to Gen. U. S. GRANT, commanding U. S. forces in the S. E. Department of Missouri, &c., Dr. JAMES SIMMONS, Medical Director, and Dr. J. P. TAGGART, Medical Purveyor at Cairo, who have treated me throughout my stay here with the kindest consideration.

P. AIGNER, M. D.

*Cairo, Ill., Nov. 2, 1861.*

In the probability that a large force will be located at this point during the winter, and that military operations will here be rather increased than diminished, I would suggest that the work of the Sanitary Commission should be placed on a somewhat more permanent foundation by the establishment of a depot of supplies to which recourse may be had in any emergency, and where the drafts of the Inspector may be honored at sight. Such an arrangement would involve but a trifling expense to the Commission, and would materially increase its efficiency at this point.

## MISSOURI.

A vast amount of extraneous aid has been rendered to the Government in the care of the sick among the troops in Missouri within three months past. During that time, Dr. BUEL, agent of the Commission, has continued to reside in St. Louis, has inspected many camps in the vicinity of the city and farther westward, and has distributed to those wanting them, a large aggregate of hospital supplies, forwarded to him from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and New York. The Rev. ROBERT COLYER has also rendered most efficient aid to the Commission by devoting a number of weeks to visiting the camps in the interior of the State, and in the care of the sick in St. Louis.

The "Western Sanitary Commission," under the authority of Gen. FREMONT about three months since, commenced the establishment in St. Louis of hospitals for the reception of such sick as might be transported thither from the columns advancing southwest and west. Latterly their self-imposed duties have largely increased, and in coöperation with the medical authorities of the army, they have provided most comfortable quarters for about 2500 sick, their hospitals being now nearly full. The appended report upon these hospitals, made November 20th, by Dr. BUEL, will give some idea of their extent, capacity and completeness; it was my privilege, soon after the commencement of their operations, to meet the Commission, and examine the provisions they had made and were then making, for the accommodation of the sick. The evidence of their intelligence, industry and philanthropy, as furnished by the hospitals established under their supervision, were then in the highest degree gratifying to me, and as more fully exhibited in their present condition, entitles them to the gratitude and respect of the whole country. The arduous and gratuitous labors of the Western Sanitary Commission, in the establishment and care of the hospitals in St. Louis, have necessarily engrossed most of their time and attention, and the inspection of camps, and the prevention of disease among the troops west of the Mississippi, which, in their generous self-devotion, they at one time assumed, has proved to be beyond their power. In these circumstances, it has been determined to extend into Missouri the same thorough system of sanitary measures now being carried out through all the other divisions of our army. An Associate Secre-

tary and an experienced Inspector have therefore been sent to St. Louis, who will, in coöperation with the Western Sanitary Commission, in the shortest time possible, investigate fully the condition and wants of the troops in Missouri, and promptly supply all needed material aid from our abundant stores.

REPORT ON THE MILITARY HOSPITALS OF ST. LOUIS, MO.,  
NOVEMBER 20, 1861.

“ The military hospitals of St. Louis, consist of three large hospitals, one receiving house, one measles hospital, one small pox do. and one small hospital at Benton Barracks.

The first I shall mention, is that in order of time first opened, in a new building constructed as a House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents, but never occupied for that purpose. It stands upon an elevated piece of ground, about four miles southward of the city, and about a mile west of the river; is admirably adapted to hospital purposes, as much so as if expressly constructed for that use; contains six large and lofty wards well lighted and ventilated, about one hundred feet by sixty, capable of comfortably accommodating about eighty patients each. There are other smaller wards, making, in the aggregate, room for six hundred beds. The *personnel* of the hospital consists of the Medical Staff, one Surgeon-in-chief, Dr. BAILEY, U. S. A., and five assistants, who are mostly, I believe, from civil life, one apothecary and assistant, one clerk, eight stewards, eight ward masters, thirty-one male nurses, fourteen female do., besides cooks, laundresses and laborers, whose number varies with the number of patients in the house. The female nurses are Sisters of Charity, and from personal observation as well as the testimony of the patients, I am satisfied that they perform their duties with great kindness, zeal and assiduity. The whole aspect of the hospital presents an air of neatness and comfort, and I am satisfied that the patients are as comfortable and as well cared for as the inmates of any large hospital in the world. The most prevalent and fatal diseases are typhoid fevers and dysentery. The greatest number of deaths are from the first-mentioned disease. I did not learn the exact number. There are but few surgical cases at present.

The second hospital in the order of opening, is that on the corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, in the heart of the city. This

building contains five stories besides the basement, having two fronts of about eighty feet each. It was designed for stores, offices and apartments, contains a very large number of rooms, none of which are of very large size, the largest number of beds in any one being about twenty-five. This has its advantages and disadvantages. Large wards are more easily ventilated, smaller ones give a more perfect classification. The building has been well fitted with baths, water-closets and heating apparatus. It is thoroughly warmed and ventilated throughout. The present number of patients is 450, number of beds, 550.

*Personnel.*—Medical Staff, Surgeon-in-Chief, Dr. HODGINS of St. Louis, six assistants, all from civil life, two apothecaries, male nurses 50, female do. 13, ward masters 5, cooks 6, laborers 27.

In this hospital the female nurses are Protestant women, and appear to be fully equal in the discharge of their duties, to the Catholic Sisters at the House of Refuge. The remarks made in reference to the comfort and cleanliness at that institution, are equally applicable to this. They are all that could be desired. This hospital contains more surgical cases, many of the wounded from Springfield and Lexington having been brought here. Many cases of severe injury, which seemed nearly hopeless, are now in a fair way of recovery without loss of limb.

The third and last of the larger hospitals, is on Fourth street, near its northern termination. The building is of the same style and description as that on Fifth street; somewhat larger, having six hundred beds, and at present four hundred and sixty patients. The number of physicians, nurses and attendants is about the same. All the arrangements are in the same style of neatness and comfort.

*Measles Hospital*, corner O'Fallon Street and Franklin Avenue, one hundred and fifty beds, all occupied. Medical attendants, two; nurses and other attendants, same relative numbers as in the large establishments.

*Small Pox Hospital*, beds fifty, patients five.

*Small Hospital* adjoining Benton Barracks, designed to receive such cases as occur among the soldiers there. Beds one hundred and thirty, all occupied; medical attendants, two; nurses and other attendants, same proportion as the others.

*Receiving House*, situated immediately adjoining the R. R. Depot



of the Western and Southwestern Railroads, connecting with Jefferson City, Rolla, &c., over which most of the patients arrive. The trains come in mostly at a late hour of the evening. The object of this building is to make the patients comfortable for night immediately on their arrival. It has one hundred and twenty beds, medical attendants, nurses, cooks and cooking facilities, so that every new-comer can be furnished with a warm supper. In the morning they are sent in ambulances, and distributed among the different establishments according to the diseases under which they are suffering, or wherever there is most room. As a connecting link between this and the other hospitals in this city, and points in the interior to which the sick and wounded are sent, they have railroad ambulances or hospital cars, filled with beds, berths and blankets, provided with cooking stoves each, and one or two nurses, so that the patients are made perfectly comfortable, provided with warm food and drinks, and thus make the transit with slight fatigue and inconvenience.

It will thus be seen that the system of Military Hospitals in St. Louis is very extensive and complete. It is also economical, the expense per man being but the trifling sum of \$5.00 per month in addition to his rations. Probably this amount is far more than saved to the Government, by the shorter time spent, where the facilities for recovery are so great, setting aside what is due to humanity and the patriotism of our brave volunteers.

These arrangements have all been made under a voluntary committee of prominent and well-known citizens, the most active of whom are the Rev. Dr. ELIOT, Dr. JOHNSON and JAMES C. YEATMAN, Esq., who have given themselves to this labor of love with a zeal and devotion worthy of all praise.

WM. P. BUELL, M. D.,  
*Inspector U. S. San. Com.*

Total number of beds, 2,200.  
" " patients, 1,600.

## INDIANA, MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN AND IOWA.

It will be noticed that in the preceding pages no mention has been made of the operations of the Sanitary Commission in these States, but it must not be inferred from this omission that nothing has been done among all this warm-hearted and loyal people for the great cause in which we are engaged; but there are no troops permanently stationed in any of these States, nor has the efficient aid which we are receiving from this source yet crystallized into such a definite form as to be satisfactorily reported. I am happy to be able to say, however, that in all these States we have influential and patriotic Associate members, who are doing and will do good work for the sick soldiers; and Ladies' Aid Societies, which are forwarding quantities of hospital stores to be distributed by our agents in Western Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. Among those to whom we are specially indebted for favors of this kind, should be mentioned Mrs. GEO. DUFFIELD, of Detroit, Rev. H. A. REID and Mrs. L. P. HARVEY, of Wisconsin, who have been most active and useful in distributing supplies furnished by the ladies of their respective States.

---

To give a resumé, then, of the condition and wants of the troops in the Valley of the Mississippi, and the duty done and to be done by the Sanitary Commission, we have to congratulate ourselves, first, upon the marked amelioration of the sanitary condition of both camps and hospitals since my last report; second, on the general high character of the medical officers having the care of the troops, most of them having passed a searching examination by a competent Board appointed by the Governors of the States in which the regiments were recruited; third, upon the uniformly friendly relations and hearty co-operation existing between the medical and military officers of the different departments with the Sanitary Commission and its agents, with a general high appreciation of the importance of its aims, and approval of its methods; fourth, on the active and efficient co-operation of a large number of Associate members of the Commission, who have formed Branch Commissions in the principal cities, which, by their earnest efforts and their moral influence, are affording most important aid in our work: fifth, upon the organization of a number of Auxiliary Ladies'

Soldiers' Aid Societies, who are busily engaged in the preparation of hospital stores, whose bounty so liberally bestowed has alleviated much suffering, saved many lives, and enabled us to accomplish good which it would have been impossible to effect without their aid; sixth, on the liberality of the managers of railroad and steamboat lines and express companies, who have, by the transportation of stores free, or at diminished rates, greatly added to our means of usefulness.

On the other hand, we have to deplore the continued operation of avoidable causes of suffering and disease which call for our warmest sympathy and most earnest efforts, and which will, in the future, task our energies to the utmost, and exhaust all our resources in their removal.

While the present percentage of sickness and mortality continues among our volunteers, we, as a people, stand convicted of inhumanity, and bad economy, a wastefulness of the doubly *vital* element on the present war, human life. We can never consistently suspend our labors till this charge can be truthfully denied

Respectfully submitted.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,

*Assoc. Secretary.*