

All the houses are well-built, with fine gardens attached. There is a school for the sons of the Shan Chiefs. I was told that the masters were all university men and, from the house where I nursed, the boys could be seen at cricket and foot-ball in their playground.

I spent 5 very pleasant weeks in Taunghgi and then returned to Maymyo undertaking to come back to Taunghgi to another case in June. By that time a military police "Tonga Service" had been established and I did the journey from Thazi in 3 days, but I think on the whole my first experience was the more enjoyable. Sitting in a tonga all day was rather back-breaking.

I was bold of course to make the journey in the rainy season but was only once caught in a shower.

I brought back with me some fine Shan bags and Chinese purses as mementoes of my visit.

PRIZE PAPER FOR APRIL "TETANUS"

BY MISS ALICE SAUNDERS.

THE specific cause of tetanus or lock jaw is the bacillus tetani, which enters the body through wounds or abrasions in the skin and mucous membrane. The germ is a natural inhabitant of the intestines of animals, especially horses and is therefore often found in soil, particularly in that fertilized with manure. That the disease is not more common is due to the fact that it requires to be deeply embedded in the tissues in order to develop. Wounds made by toy pistols have always been attended with a high percentage of tetanus infection, because the germs, which the child has got on his hands from the soil, are driven deeply into the tissues when the wound is made. The germs remain in the wound and do not invade the body, but they produce a very powerful toxin which is absorbed by the blood. The horrible convulsions characteristic of the disease are due to the action of this poison.

Incubation.—The period of incubation is from one to three weeks.

Symptoms.—The onset is gradual. There is a growing rigidity of the muscles of the neck and jaw, which spreads slowly to the trunk and legs. The arms are seldom involved. As the rigidity increases, spasmodic contractions of the muscles develop and increase in intensity, until convulsions occur upon the slightest stimuli, such as a noise, a touch, a light, or jarring the bed. The convulsions may be so severe that the body will become arched and the patient rest on his head and heels. The respiratory muscles may become so rigid that they will not work and the patient will die of suffocation. The paroxysms are of varying duration, but even when the body is not in actual spasm, the muscles are rigid and tense. The death-rate is about 80 per cent., death usually occurring within four days.

Temperature.—The temperature is variable in mild cases, there is sometimes only a slight elevation. Ordinarily it runs between 103° and 105° F. but in some cases it may be higher, and is frequently 110° F. and over before death.

Treatment.—When the tetanus antitoxin can be procured, a patient whose wound has been received under conditions favourable is given a dose of antitoxin as a preventive measure, and the wound is thoroughly cleansed and kept open for drainage. If the patient is not seen by the physician until the symptoms have developed the wound is opened, curetted and irrigated. Bromide Chloral, or other medicine that possesses antispasmodic power is given and, during convulsions, Chloroform.

Nursing.—Absolute quiet and darkness are two of the most essential points in the nursing. Either nasal or rectal feeding is resorted to when necessary, and to prevent convulsions, it is frequently necessary to keep the patient under the influence of chloroform during the process.

POEMS.

THE COMFORTER.

The following is from the *Dundee Advertiser*.—

Silent is the house. I sit

In the fire-light and knit.

At my ball of soft grey wool

Two grey kittens gently pull—

Pulling back my thoughts as well,

From that distant red-rimmed hell,

And hot tears the stitches blur

As I knit a comforter.

"Comforter" they call it—yes,

Such it is for my distress,

For it gives my restless hands

Blessed work. God understands

How we women yearn to be

Doing something ceaselessly—

Anything but just to wait

Idly for a clicking gate!

So I knit this long grey thing

Which some fearless lad will fling.

Round him in the icy blast,

With the shrapnel whistling past;

"Comforter" it may be then,

Like a mother's touch again,

And at last, not grey, but red,

Be a pillow for the dead!

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