

Gen. Gorgas, U.S.A., Enemy of Disease

HE HAS MADE HEALTH RESORTS OF PLAGUE SPOTS. CONGRESS HAS GIVEN HIM SOME SPECIAL HONORS. MOST OF THE WORLD'S GREAT UNIVERSITIES AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES HAVE BESTOWED DEGREES. HE IS VERY SHY AND DOESN'T AT ALL LIKE TO DISCUSS HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.



Surgeon General Gorgas



HOSPITAL FOR CANAL EMPLOYEES

By EDWARD B. CLARK.
A. J. GEN. WILLIAM CRAWFORD Gorgas, chief of the medical corps of the United States army, is by many men accounted the greatest soldier of them all. He has met and overcome disease on many fields, and disease is accounted, even in war time, the greatest enemy of the human race. When one writes of this modest-appearing man, who never speaks voluntarily of his own achievements on the sickness-stricken field, he is writing of one of the most famous men of any nation. He does not belong to Washington, nor yet to the United States, but to the world.

Here is a doctor and a soldier whose record stands unique. In order to honor him congress in a way upset its traditions and changed a line of legislative action which for years ran one unvarying course. Last spring the congress of the United States paid General Gorgas the highest compliment that it is within its power to pay. It gave him the thanks of the congress of the United States; it promoted him to the grade of major general, and it so changed established custom as to enable him to remain at the head of the medical corps of the army for some months after the four years allotted for such service shall have expired.

In other words, through the action of congress, General Gorgas, instead of being surgeon general of the army for the term of only four years, will hold that office until he retires from active work at the age of sixty-four years. The thanks of congress, promotion to the rank of major general and the provision which would enable the incumbent to remain surgeon general for a longer period than the usually allotted time came to this doctor, as the resolutions of congress show, because of his great work in routing disease from the Panama Canal zone and in making a former plague spot one of the most healthful districts in the world.

It is virtually impossible to get the records of all the great scientists of the world for purposes of immediate comparison, but it seems to be safe to say that no other man has been so honored by educational institutions and by learned societies as has William Crawford Gorgas. He received his modest A. B. from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., in the year 1875, and his M. D. from Bellevue Hospital Medical college in New York city four years later. From that time to this honors have been piled upon him, and he has borne them all with a modesty that resembles meekness. It is held by many that doctor of science is the highest honor which any institution of learning can confer upon a man. Seven great universities, including Oxford, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Brown and Princeton have conferred the doctor of science degree upon this American army doctor.

To him have come LL. D.'s from Johns Hopkins, and from many other universities. By the decree of Yale, Georgetown and Washington universities he is a doctor of laws. He has medals from societies, from medical associations and from national academies of science "for distinguished achievement in the interest of mankind." He has the Seaman medal from the American Museum of Safety, and he has the Mary Kinsley medal from the Liverpool (England) School of Tropical Medicine. He is a member, either active or honorary, of virtually every great scientific society in the world. The honors have sought him out. He has gone on with this work seeking nothing except that which will benefit his fellow man.

General Gorgas was born in Mobile, Ala., Octo-

ber 3, 1854; was educated at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., where he studied from 1869 to 1875, graduating with the degree of bachelor of arts. He graduated in medicine at the Bellevue Hospital Medical college in 1879. He served on the house staff of the Bellevue hospital from 1879 to 1880; entered the United States army in 1880, and served in Florida and on the western frontier until the Spanish-American war broke out in 1898. He went to Cuba with the expedition which captured Santiago.

After the fall of Santiago General Gorgas contracted typhoid fever, and was sent back to the United States. He went with the expeditionary force which occupied Havana in December, 1898, where he remained as health officer until the fall of 1902. During his incumbency as health officer of the city of Havana the army medical board made a discovery with regard to yellow fever and found that it was conveyed by the Stegomyia mosquito. As health officer, with his subordinates he devised plans and measures whereby this discovery was put into practical service.

As a result of these measures Havana was freed from yellow fever entirely in about eight months, although the disease had been there continuously for the previous 150 years. For this work he was promoted by special act of congress from the grade of major to that of colonel.

For ten years Doctor Gorgas was stationed in the Panama Canal zone, as the chief health officer of the isthmian canal commission. He was ordered to Panama in March, 1904, and three years thereafter Theodore Roosevelt made him a member of the commission. He was chosen for the Panama work because of his record. He made Panama one of the healthiest places in the world and, more than this, he made the living conditions of the laborer on the isthmus as sanitary, as comfortable and as desirable as the conditions surrounding the laborer anywhere in the world.

Two years ago when General Gorgas' term of service on the isthmus was drawing to a close because of the near approach of the day of completion of the waterway, your correspondent visited the Canal zone. While there he was taken, with some friends, to visit a hospital on an island off the coast. This hospital had been built by the French. When General Gorgas went to the isthmus he took the building, put it into perfect sanitary condition and made it a place of reception for convalescents. The hospital never was full, because there wasn't enough sickness in the zone to produce convalescents enough at any time to tax the hospital facilities. The fact that this particular building never was crowded, and that it was a small building at best, perhaps furnishes one of the best proofs possible of the commanding medical work which was done in a place generally accounted as one of the most unhealthy on the face of the globe.

During the visit to Panama a statement was

made to your correspondent by General Gorgas which was nothing short of startling in its nature. He said: "If the governments of Venezuela and Ecuador would spend a few thousand dollars to stamp out yellow fever there never would be another case of the disease known to the world."

For some reason or other the South American countries in which the yellow fever still exists will not spend the money necessary to stamp it out. So it is that so long as the disease exists there it is possible for some man, perhaps a sailor, to be bitten by a fever-laden mosquito just before he sails for another port and to carry with him the poison. It is held by the high thinkers that the countries of South America where yellow fever exists should be forced to stamp out the disease in order that the rest of the world may be safe for all time from the menace of the dread "yellow jack."

Some time ago, during a process of dredging, a low spot on the zone was turned into a marsh, and almost instantly the malaria mosquito began to breed there abundantly. Literally millions of the insects appeared. Now, there was no danger that they would spread malaria among the zone people, because the insects had to become charged with the poison first; but, of course, it was necessary to determine how far the creatures could travel, and this is the way they found out:

An able-bodied and perfectly willing native was put into a mosquito net tent, where he sat and acted as bait. He was paid a certain amount of gold for his baiting work and he, with others who afterward were employed, said it was easy money.

When the tent had a million or more mosquitoes in it the native came out and the entrance was closed. Then the scientists sprayed the tent and its confined mosquitoes with coloring matter. The spray was so fine that it did not droven or even drench the insects, but they received some coloring matter on their wings and bodies.

Other tents were pitched and in each was stationed a human bait. These tents were at certain distances apart. All the mosquitoes in the first tent were released and they were traced by color from tent to tent until none were found. In that way they found out how far the malaria fever mosquito would travel.

Surgeon General Gorgas makes his headquarters in Washington, but he is a soldier constantly subject to orders and also to the dictates of his own judgment. Any day he may be obliged to go straight to the front, not to meet the human enemy, but the disease enemy. His is the responsibility for the health of the soldiers in Texas, in the Canal zone, in Hawaii and in the Philippine islands. It is his to meet, physician-like and soldierlike, any emergency which may arise. He is one of the gentlest men known to the service and he is also one of the bravest.



DEADLY MOSQUITO SWAMP IN CUBA



DIGGING SANITARY SEWERS IN CANAL ZONE

IN THE LIMELIGHT

COLONEL WATTERSON, JOURNALIST



Not long ago the country was informed that Col. Henry Watterson and Mrs. Watterson were celebrating the golden anniversary of their wedding, and folk were rather amazed to learn that the vigorous editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal had advanced so far on the pathway of life.

Lone survivor of that group of giant journalists that included Greeley, Dana, Medill, Raymond, the elder James Gordon Bennett and Murat Halstead, "Marse Henry" is now seventy-five years old. But despite his years he still "thinks young," says an admirer, even as he still so readily writes in sonorous and beautiful English, editorials either vitriolic or reflecting a poetic nature, for temperamentally he is elasticity personified. He knows how to enjoy a glass of good rye or ripe burgundy, he knows how to play poker (and then some!) and few better love a joke.

If heat is life, then the colonel ought to live to the age of hundreds, for he radiates heat wherever he goes—and good dry heat, too. In the Courier-Journal building, the composing room is on the ground floor, just back of the counting room, where Henry has his desk, and a swinging door connects the two. One of his foibles is always to hand his copy to the foreman and another is never to have this architectural arrangement of doubtful utility disturbed, so, regularly every week, he dashes hurriedly against the door just as the foreman does the same thing from the other side. There are mutual recriminations and oburgations, and Watterson goes back to his desk charged with that electricity—reminiscent of Andrew Jackson and John Randolph of Roanoke—which has produced, at various times, gems which everybody has chuckled over.

IMMIGRANT BOY TO SENATE

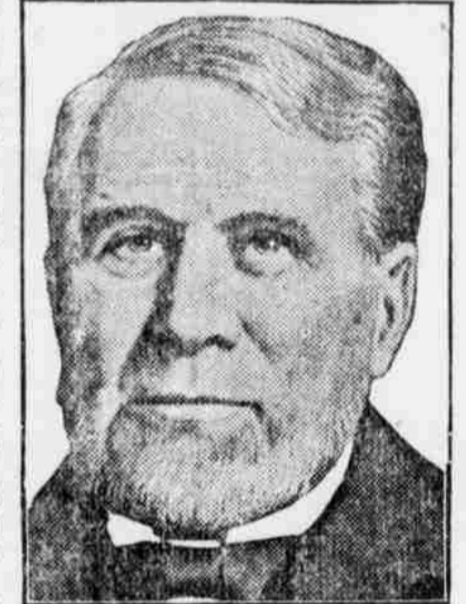
Knute Nelson, senior senator from Minnesota, seventy-three years old on February 2, has had a distinguished career which really began one July day more than sixty-five years ago, when he, a little Norwegian boy, landed at Castle Garden.

"I was six years old," he said, "and my mother was a widow. We were \$45 in debt, and if the immigration laws had been then what they are now we would not have got in—but we did, and went at once to Chicago, where my mother's brother lived. "Of course, we were poor—we all had to work hard. My mother lived out as a housekeeper with some people on the North side, and I went to live with a family on the West side. One of my duties was to drive the cows to pasture in the morning and go after them at night, out over the 'old plank road.'"

"We lived in Chicago about a year and a half, and then in the fall of 1850 my mother married and we moved to Wisconsin."

Senator Nelson was a private and noncommissioned officer in the Fourth Wisconsin regiment during the Civil war, and was wounded and taken prisoner at Port Hudson, La., in June of 1863. At the close of the war he taught school and read law.

In July, 1871, he moved to Minnesota and began the career which has made him one of the great factors in state and national politics.



LAWYER FOR CHINAMEN



When a Philadelphia Chinaman gets into trouble or wants to go to law, he hies himself to the law office of a woman, Miss A. Florence Yerger. Miss Yerger has built up a large practice that mainly concerns big interests, but she still finds time to attend to the troubles of Chinamen. She became the confidante of Chinamen shortly after she began her practice, and since then she has counseled and advised many Mongolians.

It was just by accident that Miss Yerger became the legal representative of the Chinamen of Philadelphia. It was not because she was a woman or because she made any effort to get the Chinatown practice, but because she had a property in West Philadelphia and rented it to a Chinese laundryman. He started to go to her in his troubles and brought his hundred and one cousins, and it was not long before the callers became very numerous.

When asked about her Chinese practice, Miss Yerger said: "People have a wrong opinion of the Chinaman. If you treat him squarely he will give you the same treatment. They are pictured as sly and cunning, but I have not found that so in business dealings."

E. J. KING'S CUPOLA FRIEND

When Edward J. King, the new member of congress from Galesburg, Ill., was about eight years old, he went with his father to Galva, Ill. His father was selling washing machines about the country. They lived at a little hotel in Galva. On this hotel was a cupola where the King boy and another boy used to play. It was a rather dangerous climb, but the two would go there, view the surrounding landscape and talk of the things they would do when they grew up.

Then King moved with his father to other parts and forgot all about the little chap who had played with him in the cupola. He even forgot the boy's name. All he remembered was that he usually wore a blue sailor suit.

Forty years elapsed and King was running for congress. One afternoon he was holding a conference with Frank Franz, editor of a paper at Oneida, Ill., and chairman of the Knox county Republican central committee, which was handling King's campaign in that county. King spoke of having once lived at Galva and mentioned that he used to play in the hotel cupola with a little boy in a blue sailor suit. Franz grew interested and asked for more particulars. It came out that he was the little boy in the blue sailor suit.

