

General Wood's New Kind of Warfare

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When yellow fever is wiped out of Cuba, especially out of Havana and Santiago, it will be wiped out of the United States. Yellow fever does not originate in this country. Every epidemic which the southern states have known has been started by the importation of cases from Cuba. These epidemics have cost more than a thousand lives a year for many years and often ten times that number during one single visitation. The money expenditure which has been necessary to keep up national quarantines and the commercial loss which has resulted from state quarantines have amounted up in the scores of millions.

This indicates the immense importance of the work which is now being done by our American military officers in Cuba toward the wiping out of the disease.

Brigadier General Guy V. Henry, formerly governor of Porto Rico, and who is now in the United States on waiting orders, gave as his opinion, based on his experience in Porto Rico, that it was absolutely impossible to keep yellow fever out of Santiago this summer.

"General Wood has certainly worked wonders in cleaning and administering Santiago," he said in the course of a conversation, "but he must have realized that it was a hopeless task as far as keeping the city free from fever is concerned. Yellow Jack has had an abiding place there for 200 years, and it is not possible that a few months of sanitary precautions could counteract the effect of all that period.

"Yellow fever is something that no man can guard against with any certainty. It is the accepted theory that the disease is contracted through the inhalation of germs which are propagated in a thousand ways. Everything depends on the condition of the system. If a man is run down or enervated by excesses or through climatic causes he is

he added, "but, please God, we will do everything in the power of man to reduce the casualties as much as possible. If we succeed in cutting the regular annual record of deaths one-half, or even one-fourth, I shall be satisfied."

That everything "in the power of man" has been done to keep the scourge from Santiago since General Wood assumed charge is a matter of common fame. There are some men who might have felt discouraged when confronted with the task that faced General Wood last July. It only spurred him on. With the indomitable force of will and energy characteristic of the man he threw himself into the work of cleansing and purifying the city.

The situation appealed to him from two points of view—from the military because he is in his heart and soul a military officer, and from the sanitary because his chosen profession is that of medicine.

General Wood recognized that the sanitary question was by far the most important. He realized that an enemy more potent, more insidious and more deadly than Spaniard or native lurked in the filth-begrimed and unspeakably foul thoroughfares and byways of Santiago.

"It is yellow fever we must fight, Hanna," he said to his aide as the two took their first ride through the city. "We have a foe here which is going to give us a life and death struggle. He is there in that heap of refuse, and in that adobe shanty over there, and here beneath our feet. We must fight him with brooms and shovels, with soap and water, and with new rules that will turn this town upside down."

Prevented a Panic.

One of the first precautions taken by the nervy, cool-headed American was to deny the fact that yellow fever existed in Santiago. Experience with human nature told

lurched heavily against a desk. The next moment he was prone on the floor. The agent knew from certain symptoms just what was the matter and he hastily summoned a native doctor living in the neighborhood. An hour later the stricken man was resting in a boarding house back of the cathedral. Then the doctor, according to the rules, made his report at the palace.

"It is pernicious malaria, señor," he said to General Wood. "The patient has all the early symptoms of a severe case. There is intense pain in the back and shoulders, a temperature of 105, stricture in the throat and black vomit."

"Have that man removed to the island within an hour or I will put you in the Cabildo," interrupted General Wood sternly. "And remember—it is malaria, do you understand?"

When the man left the hospital convalescent several weeks later he carried a certificate wrung from the surgeon bearing the significant words: "Discharged cured of yellow fever."

Anticipated the Epidemic.

In October General Wood drew up an elaborate plan to be followed when the anticipated return of the fever in epidemic form occurred. It was now that his training as a physician proved invaluable.

He understood the disease in all its phases, and he knew just what precautions were rational and efficient. There were three principal points as outlined. These were, first, the immediate breaking up of the various regiments into small squads and their being kept constantly on the move from camp to camp outside of the city; second, the absolute maintenance of sobriety among all Americans; third, the establishment of a rigid quarantine.

"I look upon rum or any alcoholic beverage as the greatest factor in the contraction of yellow fever," he said in explaining his plan. "Heating the blood with bad whisky is simply creating a hotbed for the propagation of the germs. A man cannot drink and face the fever unscathed."

It is the rule that General Wood is now enforcing so strictly in Santiago. His action in closing the saloons and summarily arresting any American found under the influence of liquor is simply a part of his carefully arranged plan of campaign against Yellow Jack.

The idea of dividing the various regiments on duty in and about the city into small bodies of from one to three companies each and keeping them moving from camp to camp is considered absolutely necessary from a sanitary point of view. It also affords occupation and diversion to the men, which is extremely essential to their well being under such circumstances.

The maintenance of a rigid quarantine in the city, the third item in General Wood's plan, is, of course, followed wherever contagious diseases are to be combated. In Santiago the task is comparatively simple. There are only two railways, that running to San Luis, twenty miles inland, and the ore railway owned by an American mining company. Both are easily controlled and it is within General Wood's power to seize them if necessary.

The arrival and departure of vessels from the port of course rests entirely with Morro castle at the entrance. If our hostile fleet could not enter without permission, certainly no fever ship could.

Of wagon roads and paths there are not a baker's dozen, and these approaches could easily be guarded by one company of soldiers. It will be seen from the foregoing that General Wood found no trouble in completely stopping all travel within a few hours after his recent return to Santiago from the United States.

The peculiar condition of affairs, in fact, in Santiago, would make it possible to control even interminal travel. There are no street railways, only a score or so of public carriages, and the construction of the city is such that a few well-placed troops could confine the inhabitants to their houses.

Method of Treatment.

It has been remarked that the percentage of casualties in the medical department in Santiago has so far been excessive. This can be only explained by the fact that all the victims had been exposed for some time to the enervating tropical climate, thus rendering them more susceptible to the disease.

The question of adequate medical attendance in case of an epidemic visiting Santiago was early considered by General Wood. It is his intention, if necessary, to call upon the native doctors. There are a number in the province who have had practical and extended experience in the treatment of yellow

fever and their services can be secured without trouble.

The course of treatment followed by them is on the general lines adopted in all tropical countries. The patient is immediately given a saline purge, then, after being placed in bed, is dosed liberally with quantities of an infusion made from orange leaves.

This generally produces profuse perspiration, which is the result desired. After the third day, if the subject survives that critical period, a tonic having special bearing on the stomach is administered. Food, except a small quantity of weak beef tea, is tabooed. It was the custom several years ago to use quinine in excessive quantities, but that method of treatment has been abandoned.

In preparing for a summer season of yellow fever in Santiago the possible value of using immune troops was taken into careful consideration. A decision in the negative

tell the author of. Filled with pleasant memories and cool spring water, it is a pleasant place to pass a few hours where present day troubles can be buried by happier thoughts.

The beautiful spring and its delightful surrounding shade are not the only attractive spots within the park by any means. Along the little spring-fed stream are many delightful nooks where art has made no attempt to paint the lily of nature and left a blotch upon its fair face. The beauty of the place largely consists in the fact that no effort has been made to improve upon the handiwork of the Creator, but it has simply been made accessible through the instrumentality of good roads.

Those of Omaha's people who have never visited Elmwood have no idea of its beauty, and those who have simply followed the driveways through it know but little more. It will bear inspection and the



THE BRIDGE AT ELMWOOD PARK.

was reached, the immunity of soldiers previously exposed to contagious fevers being very much open to doubt. The government's experience with immune regiments during the Spanish-American war was such that it is safe to say they will never again form a part of the defensive forces of the United States, at least from the "immune" standpoint.

H. H. LEWIS.

Rare Beauties of Elmwood Park

Elmwood is one of the newer and perhaps least known of all the parks owned by the city. It was purchased in the first place more in anticipation of future needs as the city should grow than with the idea of present use. Its location, just beyond the western borders of the city, with the present transportation facilities, renders Elmwood inaccessible to all except those who possess private means of conveyance, but this very fact has made its cool shade and delightful springs a prime inducement to picnic parties and its beautiful drives a pleasure to bicyclists and owners of carriages. The drives, with the substantial steel bridges over the creek which meanders through the park, the cleaning out of underbrush, sowing of grass and planting of trees on the sloping hillsides of a portion of the park not covered by a natural growth of timber, are about all that has been done in the way of improvement, but there are many places where the beauties of nature are an inspiration to the tired workers of the city.

One of its greatest charms is the beautiful spring from which gushes up a bountiful supply of the purest, coolest of water. A giant cottonwood stands guard over it, while spreading elms give it their protecting shade. As the tired bicyclist or the seeker after rest and quiet slakes his thirst with this purest and most satisfying of drinks it can but bring back to many the memory of other days, days when he knew not a care, when he possessed only one suspender and a stonebruised heel. He knew the woods and the fields in those days as he knows the streets of the city now; the birds, the squirrels and the numberless inhabitants of the woodlands were his friends and familiars. Not a chirp or a cry came up from the ground or echoed from the treetop which he did not know or could not



THE BONE PILE AT HAVANA.

more you prowl around through it the more you will be charmed.

Famous Bone Pile at Havana

Among the odious Spanish customs with which the American governor general of Cuba has had to deal none has impressed itself upon the people of the United States as being more barbarous than that of the so-called cemetery tax. Under the provisions of the Spanish law a tax was levied on the relatives of all buried in the cemeteries of Havana, and when the tax was not paid promptly the bodies were exhumed and the bones thrown into the enclosure known as the "bone yard." Through the years the number of human bones accumulated rapidly and especially after the outbreak of the Cuban revolution did the yard become noted. After the barbarous reconcentrado order of General Weyler had been in effect a few months the dead Cubans were either thrown unceremoniously into the bay or deposited in the "bone yard."

The spot is a favorite one for visitors in Havana to have themselves photographed, and while in that city last fall Mr. Hugo Brandeis could not resist the temptation to secure a photograph of the gruesome spot. There were several American soldiers in the party, and the result was entirely satisfactory, though to some the experience would not be altogether pleasant.

An Early Summer Idyl

The lambent moon lay idly in the serene and sapphire sky and the chirp of an invisible cricket in the clustering vines intensified the stillness of the hotel piazza.

Within the shadow of a cozy corner sat a youth and a maiden, relates the Washington Star. They had been at the hotel only a week, yet his tender heart had been filled with the wonderful rapture and from the fullness thereof his mouth spoke.

"Only a week tonight," he said to her softly, "and yet it seems as if I had known you always."

"Yes?" she whispered with that inviting rising inflection implying the delightful doubt which pleads for more proof.

"Don't you think, Miss Kate, some people are intended for each other from the beginning?" he went on.

"Oh, I don't really know, Mr. Smith," she responded just aggressively enough for the sake of argument.

"Well, I do," he asserted, confidently, "and the first time I saw you I was drawn to you in spite of myself."

"Didn't you want to be?" she cooed, with the irresistible coo of conquest.

It was altogether too much for him. "I prayed to have it go on forever," he exclaimed with impulsive fervor. "And, oh, Kate, Katie darling, I want to tell you that I loved you then and love you now more than anything else in the whole world and I want you to marry me. Say you will, dearest; say you will," and he grasped her hand convulsively.

She had scarcely expected such a demonstration.

"Oh, Harry," she cried, "this is too sudden. Wait until after frost. You'll spoil all my summer fun."

Then it was that the young man recalled mer girl and the season was just at its to his wandering wits that this was a sum-
-opening.



SPRING AT ELMWOOD PARK.

very apt to contract fever. Still there are cases known where men in vigorous health and entirely abstemious in habits have been carried off as with a lightning's stroke. The disease attacks men, women and children impartially, but it must be confessed that victory generally rests with those who are careful and temperate.

"The precautions now being taken by General Wood and the plan he is following seem entirely correct. From all appearances, however, the task he has before him is by no means easy."

Yellow fever has existed in Santiago de Cuba under the misnomer of "pernicious malaria" since the surrender of the city last July. Americans—soldiers and civilians—have died of it, cases have filled the fever hospital across the bay from Santiago, and other cases a-plenty have been sent home convalescent to recuperate in the more healthful climate of the United States.

In Santiago to-day the term "pernicious malaria" is a byword. It is now known down there that fully 60 per cent of those who suffered from it during the latter months of 1898 were really victims of the dread yellow fever scourge in a more or less mild form. The fact that their hospital papers bore the words "pernicious malaria" did not serve to lessen the peril of the patients, but it prevented the danger of a panic and helped materially in the reconstruction and purification of the city.

And that was why General Leonard Wood, military and civil governor of Santiago de Cuba, knowingly and with premeditation, successfully concealed the fact that yellow fever existed within the confines of the province.

That General Wood fully anticipated the present outbreak is beyond question. He knew that fever would return in force this summer despite all that medical skill and sanitary precautions could do to prevent it.

An Interview with General Wood.
"It is as impossible to carry American troops and civilians through the hot tropical months of June, July and August without a number of fatalities from yellow fever as it would be to stop a Mauser bullet without being hurt," he said to the writer last October.

"I say it is impossible to entirely escape,"

him that the widespread publication of the fact would serve no good cause, but that it would possibly create a panic, cause demoralization and practically put a check upon his plans for redeeming the city from its centuries of filth. Good work cannot be expected from men who feel that they are walking cheek by jowl with Yellow Jack. And there are authentic cases of men who have been frightened into a disease through fear of it. General Wood's concealment of the facts in question was approved by the authorities in Washington.

His second precaution—seemingly a paradox—was the conversion of a small island in Santiago bay into a hospital for the treatment of contagious fevers. Buildings completely equipped with medical facilities were erected and everything provided for the very visitation now occurring in the city.

Shortly after the hospital was in readiness so many cases were sent there that attention was attracted to it. One American connected with the postoffice went to the palace in alarm one day. General Wood smiled grimly when the man stated his errand.

"Yellow fever?" he exclaimed. "Nonsense! The reports say pernicious malaria, and I guess the doctor knows what he is talking about."

"But," he added gravely, "you must remember that pernicious malaria is not to be fooled with. It has been known to result fatally. Better keep yourself in good condition, leave rum alone and stay indoors at night."

Deaths from "Pernicious Malaria."

Each day the one paper then being published in Santiago recorded the death of from two to ten citizens or soldiers from pernicious malaria. These reports excited little or no comment. There was a familiar ring to the word "malaria," at least to the Americans, and if they wondered at all it was that "chills and fever" could carry off so many.

One day the man in charge of the Merritt and Chapman wrecking operations on the Spanish war ships strolled into the office of the company's agent, Julian Cendoya.

"I am not feeling very well," he said dully. "I guess it must be the heat."

Before Cendoya could, reply his visitor