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"Horse sickness," said the professor, "is a marvellous disease. The incubation period appears to last from five to six days, and a peculiar feature of the disease is that within an hour after a horse dies the ground for several inches round its nostrils is covered with a little mound of froth, which looks exactly like snow. Scientists have not been able to discover a preventive, and personally I do not believe in the theory held by many persons in South Africa that horses which have recovered from an attack of the disease become 'salted,' which means that they will not be affected with it a second time. It is probably true, however, that an animal which recovers from the first attack will be able to shake off the disease on the second occasion. Another peculiar fact is that, no matter how severe the disease may have been, a new case is never known to occur after the first frosts set in. From this and other circumstances it is conjectured that the disease will eventually be traced to an insect of some kind which lives, or at least lays its eggs, in the grass, and which is destroyed by frost. If this theory is correct I consider there is a grave danger that the disease may be introduced into Australia by means of grass seeds, grain, and other substances of that kind unless strict precautionary measures are taken to guard against it."

In reply to a question whether medical science was likely to be able to prevent or lessen the ravages of enteric fever in future campaigns as a result of the experience which had been gained during the war the professor replied that he believed such would be the case. Dr. Dodgin, a specialist who had been appointed by the War Office to carry out a series of bacteriological experiments, recently made an important discovery which may have far-reaching effects. He received from the Pasteur Institute at Berne a tube of unnamed serum or lymph. When experimenting with this he was surprised to find that it had a curative effect upon enteric patients, which was very unusual. The quantity of lymph which he had to work with was not sufficient to enable him to make extensive experiments, but he succeeded in "cutting the fever" in six cases. The result was highly satisfactory in every instance, and Professor Watson considers that the discovery is so important that every effort should be made to ascertain the nature of the serum, and if possible to obtain a sufficient supply to enable thorough tests on a larger scale to be made. Valuable work is also being done by the plague experts at Cape Town, and Professor Watson was able to obtain a large amount of information on the subject which will prove invaluable in the event of another outbreak of the disease in Australia.

During his travels to and from Pretoria Professor Watson met many South Australians of all ranks, many of whom had already made a reputation for themselves and had secured good positions. Chief among these was Dr. A. J. Campbell, son of the late Dr. Allan Campbell, who was appointed a member of Steinkamp's Horse, with the rank of captain. Dr. Campbell was one of the most successful civil surgeons in Natal, and since he has held his present position he has been known as the "regimental pet." Major "Karri" Davis has, the professor affirms, proved himself to be one of the ablest men Australia has sent to South Africa. He also speaks, in glowing terms of the courage, ability, and versatility of Major Reade, and many other officers with whom he was brought into contact. He was pleased to find that the Australian nurses, including those sent from South Australia, had been eminently successful, and that their work was greatly appreciated. Incidentally he remarked that it was admitted that the saddles supplied by Adelaide firms to the South Australian mounted contingents were unrivalled in South Africa, being far better than the average of those made in England. He considers that next to the locally bred horses the Australian mounts were superior to all others in the field. The African horses were, he found, smaller and shorter in the body than those bred in Australia, but as most of them are descendants of Arab stock they are unrivalled for hard usage. Professor Watson was received everywhere in South Africa with the greatest kindness, and he speaks in grateful terms of the assistance and consideration he received from all ranks of the medical staff. He considers that the members of the Royal Army Medical Corps have done splendid work, and that their great services to the empire have not yet received the recognition they deserve. The same may be said of the large number of civil surgeons who went to the front from every part of the British Empire, and rendered invaluable assistance to the medical corps during the most trying period of the war.

"Well," he began, "you know all about my departure. I left as a special service officer at the recommendation of Brigadier-General Gordon, C.B. I had letters of introduction from his Excellency Lord Tennyson and the Chief Justice to Lord Milner, and to Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, the Governors of Cape Colony and Natal respectively. The Hon. J. G. Jenkins (Chief Secretary) gave me credentials to the Imperial authorities. These documents stood me in good stead. I landed at Durban, where J. J. Coope came in with the yacht Sunrise, R.Y.S., and generously offered the vessel to the Government for use as a floating hospital, with Dr. Campbell (now surgeon-captain) in charge. I went immediately to the principal medical officer at the base. Major McCormack, R.A.M.C., who was extremely kind, introduced me to the director of railways (Sir D. Hunter), who forwarded me to Maritzburg, the seat of government. I found that my way had been prepared by Dr. Hall-Owen (late Mayor of South Melbourne), an old student of mine. He was aware of my intentions. He sang my praises rather loudly, but I forgave him. He went from Victoria in just the same capacity as I did from South Australia. He has since succumbed to typhoid.

"On my arrival at Maritzburg the wounded were coming down in hundreds from Spion Kop, and shortly afterwards from Vaal Kranz. I was introduced to Colonel P. H. Johnston, P.M.O., and after working as a volunteer surgeon for one month was appointed consulting surgeon on the lines of communication, taking the place of Sir William McCormack, who had left to join Lord Roberts's staff. At that time the other consulting surgeons were Sir William Stokes and Mr. F. Treves. The last-named was a particularly clever surgeon. I was astounded at the excellence of his work, but unfortunately I had only a short time in which to benefit by his experience. Sir Thomas Fitzgerald came along, and his short stay in Natal was very useful to me. I also had the benefit for a short period of association with Professor John Chiene, an Edinburgh professor.

"My movements along the lines of communication were greatly facilitated by Colonel Heath, D.A.A.G., who is a son-in-law of Mrs. Baker, of Morialta. I am also greatly indebted to Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, late Governor of Natal, and now Governor of Cape Colony, who introduced me to Colonel Gallwey, C.B., the chief medical officer of the Natal army. From all the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps I received great kindnesses, and I must specially mention Major Daly, the principal medical officer at the Charleston Hospital, a big institution just under Majuba Hill. His brother is a well-known doctor in Gisborne, Victoria. The civil surgeons—there were not sufficient army surgeons for the requirements—were attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps. They came from all parts of the Empire, and rendered excellent service. I am of opinion that the Imperial Government has not sufficiently recognised their devotion to duty. I cannot speak too highly of the nurses, who deserve special recognition.

"I spent some time in studying horse-sickness and leprosy. My investigations in the latter disease were made under Dr. Turner, late health officer of Cape Colony, but now of the Transvaal. My experience in horse-sickness was gained under that excellent Victorian officer, Veterinary-Captain Ruddoch.

"In Johannesburg I went down some of the mines—the Pereira, for instance, which is one of the best paying mines in the world—and was shown over the workings by Captain James, the manager. He is an Englishman, and I found him to be a courteous and capable man. Captain Johns, an American, and an equally capable man, showed me over the May mine.

"The Chief Justice of Pretoria when I was there was Captain McInerney, of the Victorian Mounted Rifles. He introduced me to General Maxwell, the Pretorian Commandant, who gave me letters to the commanding officers of several stations on the western lines. I was in consequence able to see the country, and to meet amongst others Lieutenant James Way, R.A., a South Australian, who went to the war with the Second Contingent. He has already earned laurels in the Imperial service, and I believe there is a great future for him.

"I met Mr. M. Newland, another South Australian, who is the secretary in the Government department of mines. He is doing remarkably well.

"I also saw Major C. J. Reade, C.B. He held a most important position, and proved himself to be a fine administrator. Neither Mr. Cecil Rhodes nor Mr. Rudyard Kipling would believe, when they were first told, that he was Australian born. His language was unlike that which they were accustomed to hear from Australians. His command was always to the fore.

"Wherever I went in South Africa I heard of Surgeon-Major Fiaschi and the New South Wales Ambulance. He was much admired, and so was his second in command, Captain J. Marshall, who as medical officer of the Mounted Bearer Corps was always to the front, as also was his chaplain, 'Father Pat' (the Rev. Captain Fegan, of New South Wales).

"Whilst at the Cape I visited Robben Island, by the courtesy of Dr. Gregory, health officer, and attended the plague hospital, which is under Dr. J. A. Mitchell. He provided me with a full set of microscopic specimens of plague, and the slides were much appreciated by his colleagues in the Sydney Health Department. In addition to the other medical branches mentioned, I paid some attention to malaria and typhoid.

"I cannot refrain from referring to the excellence of the saddles supplied to the South Australian contingents, especially those manufactured by Messrs. Holden and Frost. Their saddles were the best I saw in South Africa."

PROFESSOR WATSON AND A JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL.

In the latest number of the "British Medical Journal" which has been received in Adelaide Dr. Archibald Watson, of this city, who was for some months consulting surgeon to the British forces in Natal, publishes an interesting account of "No. 5 General Hospital, Johannesburg." He mentions that the hospital comprised four divisions, providing altogether between 1,300 and 1,400 beds, and he gives interesting details of the arrangements made for the efficient treatment of the sufferers and for the entertainment of convalescents. He states that up to January, 1901, 13,000 cases were treated, and that the percentage of deaths was 2.15. There were 2,500 enteric cases, with 7.86 as the percentage of mortality. His concluding remarks are pleasantly suggestive:—"What more favourable environment could a disabled soldier of the empire desire? From all the world over have they come, these battered warriors. Together they have fought, and now together they suffer—South Africans, Canadians, New Zealanders, Australians, wounded Boers, and the British foot soldier, than whom there lives no braver man."

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Professor Watson, who went to South Africa as a special service officer about 18 months ago, returned to Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Sunday morning. The professor, who has not yet completely recovered from the effects of a recent illness, returned to Australia by the Tongariro, which reached Sydney on May 1. He was met at the railway station by several members of the medical profession and a large number of personal friends, and was heartily congratulated upon his safe return.

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Professor Watson, after long and valuable service on the Medical Staff in South Africa, succeeded by an attack of measles, returned to Adelaide on Sunday morning by the Melbourne express, and is at present the guest of Dr. Way, at North Adelaide. He resumes his duties at the University to-day.

Register 6th July 1901

PROFESSOR IVES.

To the Editor.

Sir—The announcement that Professor Ives may shortly relinquish his connection with the chair of music has naturally been productive of much comment. It is generally conceded that the genuine interest displayed by the professor throughout the past 15 years in the advance of his art has resulted in an incalculable amount of good, which, owing to its thoroughness, must of necessity be permanent. In view of this fact, therefore, it would be an evidence of downright ingratitude to permit a gentleman of Professor Ives's attainments to pass from our midst without strenuous efforts being exerted by both professional and amateur musicians to induce him to reconsider a matter which to South Australia, musically speaking, is of the utmost importance.

I am, Sir, &c., PROFESSIONAL.

To the Editor.

Sir—As one of the first set of students for the degree of Mus. Bac. under Professor Ives, I wish to express my regret at the possibility of his leaving Adelaide, as I consider him to be the right man in the right place. Ever since 1884, without a break, he has given his interesting and lucid lectures to the university music students, and it would be difficult to get any one who would be so thoroughly familiar with his subject, or such a gifted lecturer, and who would take such an interest in his work, finding time also to help and advise those who apply to him outside the university curriculum, without fee or reward, thus "helping art for art's sake." The same spirit must have prompted him to give the musical public the benefit of hearing those poetical lectures on Wagner, Liszt, and other subjects of musical interest, and also of reading those interesting and thoughtful articles from his pen, published by "The Register." In addition to these and the other important duties he has fulfilled he has found time to write such important works as an orchestral symphony and a Te Deum, which we are looking forward to hearing. The professor is not a man to do things with a flourish of trumpets; and so the public may not realize how much he has really done. He has devoted 17 of the best years of his life to the cause of music in our city, and those of us who have benefited by his talents and his conscientious labours should not forget the fact.

I am, Sir, &c., FRANKSKA KELLY, The Vines, Mackay Road, Adelaide, July 5.

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PROFESSOR WATSON.

AN INTERVIEW.

Professor Watson, who in January, 1900, left Adelaide for South Africa to give his skilled assistance to the wounded in battle, and whose services proved of such value, returned to Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Sunday morning, and resumed his work at the Adelaide University on Monday. During Sunday afternoon Professor Watson accorded a representative of "The Advertiser" an interview. The professor had much to say, and he has a way of telling his experiences and announcing his opinions that is delightfully crisp and interesting.