

Sanitation Practiced Twenty Centuries Ago

In a recent issue of Modern Medicine, James A. Tobey takes up the early story of sanitation. Referring to the discoveries of the last forty years, Mr. Tobey suggests that these have so enriched the knowledge of man that what had gone before may seem almost negligible, but at the same time the practice of systematic sanitation goes back to the dawn of civilization. Traces of these practices have been found in Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Crete and Greece and Rome.

History begins about 6,000 years ago, and the earliest known civilization is that of the Sumerians, who lived between the Tigris and the Euphrates, in what is now known as Mesopotamia. Here recent excavations show that the dwellings of the people were provided with drains and cesspools.

The Chaldeans and Assyrians who came later, with great capitals at Nineveh and Babylon, had water supplied from great distances and the whole city was sewered.

Another great civilization flourished in the valley of the Nile some 3,000 years B. C. These Egyptians worshiped the dung beetle, the scarabaeus, possibly recognizing its scavenging powers. The well of Joseph, near the great pyramid, is excavated through nearly 300 feet of solid rock. The ancient Hebrews were the founders of real public health. The laws of Moses, who was born about 1600 B. C., the first hygienic code known, apply about as well to-day as when first promulgated.

The Hebrews recognized the sanitary significance of bathing, cooked all meats and vegetables and abstained from the use of certain meats considered unclean. The city of Jerusalem was well sewered and had a good water supply. Previous to the eighth century B. C., the city had two aqueducts. In 727 B. C., King Hezekiah built a reservoir, the Pool of Siloam, and to supply it pierced the rock hill behind the city with a tunnel.

Crete had the most elaborate sanitary engineering of the remote past. The palace of Broad Knossos (B. C. 2100) had rainwater conductors which flushed the drain.

Under Cyrus the Persians had excellent sanitary ideas, derived from the Egyptians. In talking with his father Cyrus received good advice, to the effect that while physicians could cure sickness in the army, the better course would be not to permit the army to get sick at all. Here was the voicing of prevention more than five centuries before Christ.

The Hindus had rules of hygiene, but public health appears always to have been unconsidered in China as it is to-day. They knew in antiquity the inoculation against smallpox and the importance of good water, some of their wells being 1,500 feet deep and very old.

The Druids of Britain, antedating Moses, knew medicine and are believed to have practiced sanitation. In North America there are prehistoric wells, and in Yucatan one such is bored to a depth of 100 feet, following then a horizontal gallery 2,500 feet long to the source of supply.

Mr. Tobey sketches also the sanitation of the Greeks and Romans. The former recognized the benefits of preserving health, and their temples were usually situated in groves near springs. Athens obtained a water supply in 625 B. C., through a tunnel 4,200 feet long and eight feet square.

Hippocrates clarified medical science. He wrote three books on hygiene and sanitation. He advocated boiling drinking water. Carthage had the oldest known cisterns, eighteen in number, each 100 feet long by 20 feet deep.

Rome had sewers as early as 600 B. C. The cloaca maxima was built in 735 B. C. and is in use to-day. The great Roman aqueducts are monuments to the genius of the ancient engineers. Some of them are still in use. The Romans made bathing a luxury. Pompeii had a water supply in the fifth century B. C., and bath atriums. Rome used the water supply for flushing. Crete depended on the rain. Truly the ancients had good ideas about some essentials of sanitation.—Kansas City Star.

By Associated Press. Roulers, Belgium, Nov. 28.—Flanders' mud, the bane of all armies operating in Belgium, is of some use after all.

Lime is practically unobtainable in Belgium to-day and in many of the ruined villages, the refusees are laying stones and bricks with mud for temporary shelter against the coming winter. Others fill the chimneys in their chimneys and walls with it, and altogether it is becoming as much of a handicap to the soldiers who lived in it for months.

At Dixmude, the mayor divides his time between public affairs, weighing out coal, distributing supplies and cleaning mortar off of old bricks from the ruin of his house. He is laying these in mud, too, for his winter's shelter. His example is being widely followed in Dixmude and surrounding villages and Flanders' mud is playing an important part in the making of temporary homes until new materials can be secured in the spring.

RED CROSS HOSPITAL GOES UP IN MONTENEGRO Podgoritz, Nov. 28.—A gift of \$20,000 made by the Junior Red Cross of America, for hospital and educational work in Montenegro, is being utilized here.

The Podgoritz hospital of seventy beds, established some months ago by the American Red Cross, and which has been daily turning away enough patients to fill 500 beds, is being enlarged immediately. Two additional wards, made of barracks and set in the beautiful grounds of Prince Mirko's palace are being added to the hospital. A section of the hospital will be devoted especially to the treatment of children.

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Captures 5,000,000 Rubles From Bolsheviks

By Associated Press. Kharkov, South Russia, Nov. 28.—General Andre Skouro, of General Denkin's South Russian forces opposing the Bolsheviks, is credited with the capture of the Bolsheviks of 5,000,000 rubles worth of booty. Americans here call him the "Million Dollar" General. He is the idol of the Cossack country and the leader of "Skouro's Wolves," whose daring and fearless cavalry warfare has made possible many of the Volunteer Army's big advances.

This dashing 32-year-old Cossack general turns all his money over to his wife, a beautiful young Caucasian girl who resides here. And she in turn has offered her fortune and services to the American Red Cross. Mrs. Skouro came to the American relief headquarters shortly after the Red Cross unit arrived and was enrolled as a volunteer worker, being placed in charge of civilian relief work in a large district behind the Denkin army.

Mining Industry in Bolivia Being Revived

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 28.—A great revival in the silver mining industry is in progress in Bolivia, according to Alberto Palacios, Bolivian consul here.

During the war silver mining was replaced by tin and tungsten, thousands of tons of which were sold by Bolivians to the Allies. The low price of silver during this period caused many of the silver mines to be abandoned, but with the return of a demand for silver bullion and consequent high prices, the silver industry is turning on something of its ancient aspect as the South American republic, Mr. Palacios states.

Crop Reports in Mexico Are Poor

Mexico City, Nov. 28.—Exceedingly pessimistic reports of crop and harvest conditions in Mexico have been received by the Department of Agriculture. The unusually heavy and persistent rains have destroyed at least 40 per cent of corn and bean crops, the two national staples, and unless immediate measures are taken both as to conservation and replanting, the department says, there will be a real shortage of those foods. Prior to the long season of wet weather crop reports indicated the biggest harvest in many years.

INDIA'S EXPORTS BREAKING RECORDS

Delhi, India, Nov. 28.—India's exports for September amounted to approximately \$103,220,000. This exceeds all previous records.