

Lt-col Hamilton  
THANBYUZAYAT.

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Sir,

Herewith a Medical report on THETKAW P.O.W. Camp for the month of January 1943.

A graph showing the incidence of various complaints is enclosed. The average number of men in camp has been 1075. During the month three cases were transferred to THANBYUZAYAT Hospital. All of these had dysentery and one probably also had diabetes.

The daily average of men off duty owing to sickness has been about 350. The increase recently has been due to an increase of malaria and respiratory complaints.

#### SKIN LESIONS.

These have decreased and very few tropical ulcers have occurred during this month.

Most of the lesions at present have been caused by cuts and abrasions on the feet due to lack of footwear.

#### FEVER CASES.

These increased early in the month but since then have remained stationary.

Approx 100 cases (fever) have been treated in the R.A.P.

At first, several resembled dengue fever but many of these, apparently really cases of malaria, had relapses two to three weeks later.

About 25 cases of fever have been due to relapses of malaria. Most cases have been of a benign tertiary type.

Two cases showed a quartan periodicity.

A few cases showed an irregular temperature chart but responded readily to quinine.

The spleen has been palpable during the feverish attack in more than half of the cases.

Mosquito nets have been provided and with improved supplies of Quinine less cases should occur.

#### RESPIRATORY LESIONS.

These at first decreased but have recently increased due to an outbreak of coryza and sore throats.

Under present crowded conditions little can be done to prevent the spread of these complaints.

#### ALIMENTARY CONDITIONS.

These have increased considerably.

Stomatitis has been very prevalent and about half the men have been affected.

Several of these cases have developed the rash of pellagra. Apart from cases of pellagra, chronic diarrhoea is now less common.

Rise husks have been given to these men during the last few days and many cases of stomatitis are improving.

#### DYSENTERY.

Seven cases have occurred. Three of these were transferred to THANBYUZAYAT.

#### HEART CONDITIONS.

About 20 cases of tachycardia - rate 120-140 and regular - have occurred, mainly in men who have had chronic diarrhoea and malaria. Several have shown improvement with rest and improved diet.

#### EYE CASES.

Cases of failing vision have increased alarmingly recently. About 70 men show loss of vision exceeding 6/18 in one eye. 27 of these have vision of 6/60 or less in both eyes. 25 have vision of 6/60 or less in one eye.

Several cases of conjunctivitis, mainly angular in type, have occurred. There have been six cases of acute purulent type and two of these developed corneal ulcers. Of the latter one had an associated iritis. All are improving.

Lack of vitamins A and B are probably the biggest factors in causing this eye trouble. The glare from the white stone and clay in the cuttings on the railway line is probably also a large factor. Provision of dark glasses would be a great help in many cases.

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### NEURITIS CASES.

Several of these have shown considerable improvement. Many of them seem to have a metatarsalgia and provision of good boots would help.

### NUTRITIONAL CASES.

There are between 80 and 90 cases showing serious signs of defective nutrition, e.g. severe degree of failing vision, tachycardia, severe pellagra and severe neuritis etc. Many of these would be better on the improved rations at THANBYUZAYAT.

The cases of stomatitis and early pellagra will probably respond to treatment with rice husks which are now available here.

### OLD MEN.

There are many men over 40 years of age in this camp. Most of these belonged to the 4 Res M.T. Coy. Many of these men are now showing signs of deterioration in their general condition.

### DENTAL.

No dental cases from here have received treatment for over two months. There are at least 50 men who require extractions or fillings. In some cases severe toothache is causing considerable trouble.

### DEATHS.

55/2811 (VX32628) Dr JOHNSON C.C aged 39 years of 4 Res M.T. Coy died upon 24 Jan '43. He was in an emaciated condition and developed mild diarrhoea and tachycardia. He was admitted to the R.A.P. on the 21 Jan '43. He was a little worse on the morning of the 24 Jan '43, but at 1700 hrs, whilst using a bed pan, he collapsed with a heart attack and died at 1745 hrs. He was buried here on the following day.

### SUPPLIES.

Useful quantities of medical supplies were received from the Japanese on 31 Dec '42 and 21 Jan '43.

The grant from the Officers Pay Fund has made it possible to considerably improve the diet of patients in the R.A.P. by the purchase of eggs, sugar etc. This has resulted in the improvement of several of the cases of defective nutrition.

### HYGIENE.

The general hygiene of this camp is fairly good. Water supplies are getting low. Another well is being sunk to augment supplies from the existing well.

*Ch. Anderson* Capt.