

The insect was introduced in the vicinity of Riverton, N. J., probably during the last five or six years, and presumably from Japan, in soil around the roots of iris. The beetle has thoroughly established itself, and from some 600 acres infested when the insect was first discovered it has spread and at present occurs over 7,000 to 10,000 acres, with one or two outlying points of infestation, involving approximately 25,000 acres. It is reported to be one of the most injurious insects of Japan, and its behavior in this country indicates exceptional possibilities for damage.

The insect is a general feeder, attacking the grape, peach, plum, apple and cherry, as well as many ornamental plants. It has been found injuring the sweet potato and other truck crops, especially sweet corn. The beetles penetrate the tips of the ears of sweet corn much like the common corn ear-worm and could thus be widely distributed with the shipment of the corn to the various markets. The insect feeds freely on a variety of weeds, especially smart-weeds. As far as known it does not occur in other parts of the United States than in the area indicated.

THE REHABILITATION OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS¹

DETAILED reports compiled at five general hospitals indicate the progress being made by the Reconstruction Division of the Medical Department of the Army. Of the 537 cases sent to these hospitals from overseas and base hospitals in this country, 151 are now able to return to full duty and 212 are able to return to partial duty. Only 39 of these soldiers will be unable to follow their old occupations. A total of 122 will be able to return to their old employment and do efficient work, despite their injuries.

From the time these men landed in the United States an effort has been made to keep their minds and hands occupied. Curative education has been practised with satisfactory results. The men have shown interest in the "ward occupations," which consist of wood

¹ Publication of statement from the office of the Surgeon-General, authorized by the War Department.

carving, knitting, weaving, block printing, bead-work, knotted work, embroidery, educational work and typewriting. Where facilities have been provided to give the men academic studies a genuine interest has been shown to improve their mental condition so as better to prepare them to make progress in civil occupations.

After the men reached the point where they could leave the wards they were instructed in shops and schools. Quartermaster repair shops are located near some of the hospitals and these are used to give instruction to the men in mechanical occupations. At the present time 132 soldiers are taking courses in auto mechanics and repair work.

Shorthand and typewriting have attracted the attention of 151. Other popular trades and the number of patients receiving instruction in them are as follows:

Drafting, 53; business, 49; agriculture, gardening and other work of similar nature, 235; telegraphy, 31; carpentry and bench work, 32; telephone, 47; furniture repairing, 18; painting, 11; electrical, 5.

A few men are taking courses in each of the following subjects:

Blacksmith, concrete working, bricklaying, plumbing, commercial law, printing, shoe repairing, woodworking, sign painting, cabinet-work, cartooning, drawing, ring making, book-binding and willow work.

The disabilities of these men and the number suffering from each is given below. In some cases men are being treated for more than one ailment, hence the difference between the number of patients, 537, and the number of disabilities, 1,034.

Medical diseases: Cardio-vascular, 172; pulmonary tuberculosis, 83; functional neurosis (shell shock, etc.), 31; insanity, 11; nephritis, 25; gastro-intestinal, 17; gassed, 7; other general medical, 166; convalescent, 96; lung conditions (empyema), 23.

Surgical conditions: Orthopedic, 155; amputation, 42; eye, ear, nose, throat, 6; wound or injury, nervous system, 14; severe injury, face and jaw, 1; venereal diseases or sequelæ, 5; surgical condition genito-urinary system—

venereal, 9; non-venereal, 1; other surgical conditions, 59; convalescent, 111.

Total, 1,034.

The five hospitals reporting are: The Walter Reed, of Washington, D. C.; general No. 2, at Fort McHenry, Md.; general No. 6, at Fort McPherson, Ga.; general No. 9, at Lakewood, N. J.; and general No. 17, at Markleton, Pa.

THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS

UNDER a plan announced on August 13 by Dr. Franklin Martin, chairman of the General Medical Board, Council of National Defense, the medical men and women of the country are to be mobilized by the Volunteer Medical Service Corps. This organization is authorized by the Council of National Defense and approved by President Wilson.

The plan provides for the enrollment of every qualified physician, man or woman, without reference to age or physical disability, not now in the service of the government.

In a letter to Dr. Martin, approving the reorganization of the corps, President Wilson says:

In cooperation with the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense, the strong governing board of the reorganized corps will be able to be of increasing service. Through it the finely trained medical profession of the United States is not only made ready for service in connection with the activities already mentioned, but the important work of the Provost-Marshal General's office and the Red Cross will be aided and the problems of the health and of the civilian communities of the United States assured consideration.

I am very happy to give my approval to the plans which you have submitted, both because of the usefulness of the Volunteer Medical Corps and also because it gives me an opportunity to express to you and through you to the medical profession my deep appreciation of the splendid service which the whole profession has rendered to the nation with great enthusiasm from the beginning of the present emergency.

The health of the army and the navy, the health of the country at large, is due to the cooperation which the public authorities have had from the medical profession; the spirit of sacrifice and service has been everywhere present and the record of

the mobilization of the many forces of this great republic will contain no case of readier response or better service than that which the physicians have rendered.

Members of the corps will be divided into three classes:

Fit to fight, men under forty.

Reserves, under fifty-five.

Home forces, over fifty-five.

Reserves will consist of those who may be called upon for the army, navy, public health service and civilian service when necessity requires. The home forces are those who are able to do civilian service only.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Central Medical Department Laboratory has been inaugurated in a French university town. Lieutenant Colonel George B. Foster, Jr., is the director. Among the scientific men who have been working at the laboratory are Major William J. Esler, professor of bacteriology at Cornell University; Major Richard P. Strong, professor of tropical diseases at the Harvard Medical School; Major Hans Zinsser, professor of bacteriology at Columbia University; Major W. B. Canon, professor of physiology at the Harvard Medical School.

DR. OSCAR H. SELLINGS, Columbus, Ohio, who was recently placed in charge of the work of the American Red Cross for the children of Marseilles, France, has been made head of the temporary commission sent by the American Red Cross to Italy.

L. W. CHASE, professor of agricultural engineering at the University of Nebraska, has been appointed major in the Ordnance Corps, U. S. Army.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HARVEY B. LEMON, of the department of physics, University of Chicago, has been commissioned captain in the Ordnance Department of the Army and assigned to duty as head of the instrument division of the proof department of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md.

PROFESSOR MAX M. ELLIS, of the department of biology of the University of Colorado, has