

SUPPLEMENT

TO

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MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1855.

War-Department, April 2, 1855.

ORD PANMURE has this day received two Despatches and their Enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to His Lordship by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

Before Sevastopol, March 20, 1855.

I DO myself the honour to transmit to your Lordship a letter from the Inspector-General of Hospitals, forwarding the weekly return of sick to the 17th instant.

The number of sick is not diminished, but the cases are lighter, and every day the men in camp exhibit a more healthy appearance.

I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

The Lord Panmure, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure.

My Lord,

My Lord,

Before Sevastopol, March 19, 1855.

IN transmitting the weekly state of sick of the Army to the 17th instant, I have the honour to state, that though the sickness still amounts to 14.31 per cent., the mortality does not exceed 0.51 per cent., which is a proof that the diseases are milder in character; and I think I may safely say the general health and appearance of the men is greatly improved; and had not the duty, by the unavoidable operations of the siege going on, been increased of late, I think the sick list would have been still more diminished, as the men's condition is in every other way so much improved both in diet, dress, and accommodation.

It has been proposed by the Minister-at-War to give the men Tea, Coffee and Cocoa on alternate mornings, and to-morrow your lordship will receive the report of the Medical Board ordered to consider the subject. The two first, I think good, and the change will be both agreeable and beneficial to the men, but cocoa I am afraid requires too much preparation to be usefully adopted in the Army under present circumstances.

The prevailing diseases are fevers of a low typhoid form in some instances, and in others assuming an intermittent and remittent type, and bowel complaints,

Fevers have been rather on the increase of late, but bowel complaints have become much fewer in number, and milder in character.

Scurvy, too, though the number appears large in the return, is on the degrease; and I can assure your Lordship, from recent personal inspection of the men of the different divisions, that the generality of the cases returned under that head are of the most trifling character, and under the use of the present change of diet, I am in hopes the disease will soon totally disappear from our list.

In the 1st Division, the Brigade of Guards con tinues to improve in health and appearance, from its change of situation; and the Brigade of Highlanders is also efficient. The 79th and 93rd are influenced by the locality of their camps, which cannot well be changed, and have more sickness than the 42nd, which are more favourably placed, and in this regiment the most scrupulous attention is paid to the sanitary condition of their camp.

To show how locality affects the health of the men, I may mention the wing of the 2nd battalion of the Rifle Brigade which occupies the high promontory of the southern extremity of the Balaklava lines overlooking the sea; and here, though the men are exposed, and the duty is as severe as in any other part of the camp, there is little or no disease.

In the 2nd Division, the 41st and 95th Regiments have been more unhealthy than the rest, and have had a larger number of fever cases than