(*d*) *Other Infections*

CHAPTER 14

BRUCELLOSIS

ONLY a few instances of brucella infection occurred in the Australian Services. As knowledge of this infection has progressed greatly since the original work on Malta fever it is now recognised that brucellosis has a world-wide distribution among cattle and swine and occasionally attacks man. It is interesting but not unusual that at least one infection of a member of the A.I.F. in the Middle East took place, though opportunities for drinking raw milk were limited there. In Australia a few cases appeared also, just as they might in the civil community. Several of these infections were contracted on the Atherton Tableland in Queensland. Clinically the diagnosis was sufficiently convincing, but bacteriological proof was difficult to obtain. The long sustained fever with a progressive loss of weight, a moderate degree of toxaemia, polyarthritis and other metastatic complications such as orchitis made a characteristic picture. Culture was not successful, possibly because its importance was not realised in the early stages of fever. Agglutination was not always a convincing diagnostic method, either because of the need for a number of trial strains of the *Brucella abortus,* or because of low concentrations of agglutinins. In two instances the serum agglutinated the organism to a dilution of one in two thousand or more, but in two others agglutinations did not take place below a dilution of one in eighty or one in one hundred and sixty. Sulphonamides were tried in treatment; the results were equivocal, but the experience was too limited to be of value.