The concussion theory was first advanced in the fall of 1877, by Mrs. H. K. Ingram, of Edgefield, Tenn., in the publication of a paper entitled “Atmospheric Concussion as a Means of Disinfection”. She claimed that the explosion of gunpowder in a room would kill mosquitoes and other insects by concussion and that the same principles were applicable to the destruction of microbes in the air. (Published in Jacksonville Sun and Press, Sept. 13, 1877).

At one of these experiments, a negro walking down the street failed to notice the cannon until it was fired within fifty feet of him, when he was heard to exclaim, “Good Lawd, how thick dey falls”, thinking the grains of dust thrown in his face were yellow fever microbes falling out of the air. Huge fires of pine and tar were kindled at night in different sections, to purify the air and prevent the spread of the infection; tar was supposed to possess great virtue in this respect. Depopulation was finally decided upon as a means of bringing the epidemic to an end, and for this purpose the people were requested to go to the camps provided for them. Camp Mitchell, named for Dr. Neal Mitchell, was established about seven miles west of the city. Camp Howard, another refugee camp, was located in North Jacksonville, about two miles from the city limits and just beyond was the Sand Hills Hospital. Several hundred people went to these camps. In the meantime two or three special refugee trains were run out of Jacksonville. One of these trains, bound for Hendersonville, N. C., by reason of unavoidable delays, was two days in reaching destination and five cases of yellow fever developed en route. A panic ensued among the passengers, while a rigid quarantine was maintained against the infected cars by the other cars of the train. Upon their arrival in Hendersonville, the patients were taken to the hospital, where every attention was accorded them. Hendersonville threw wide her doors to the people of stricken Jacksonville from the very first, and kept them open until the last.

A strict requirement was that all mail matter should be thoroughly fumigated. Two fumigating stations were maintained, one at LaVilla Junction, near town, and the other near Waycross, Ga. The Waycross fumigating car, from August 1 to December 1, handled 2,536,845 pieces of mail matter, and each piece had to be handled four times in the process of fumigation.