

BUBONIC PLAGUE KILLS MILLIONS

Indo-Chinese Strain Possesses a Much Greater Power of Diffusion

ALMOST WHOLE WORLD VISITED

Small Beginnings in 1891 More than 1,000,000 Died in India in 1904—It Has Established Itself in Defiance of Measures.

Washington, D. C.—Surgeon General Wicken of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service has issued in pamphlet form a paper prepared by Assistant Surgeon General J. M. Eager, giving a history of the bubonic plague during the last fourteen years. No study presents more important and difficult sanitary problems Dr. Eager says than the lines of march taken by the bubonic plague in its advance from the remote endemic focus of the disease in the province of Yunnan, China, to the numerous countries in all quarters of the globe, where in many instances it has established itself in defiance of the most carefully planned preventive measures.

The revival of the plague, Dr. Eager says dates from 1891, when escaping from the western Chinese province of Yunnan, it reached Canton. It appears to be established that there are two distinct "strains" of plague, differing in the location of their permanent homes and in their facility for spreading outside them. The strain lodged in Western Asia does not possess the same power of diffusion as the Indo-Chinese "strain." It was the latter variety which, escaping from its centre in Yunnan, gave rise to the present pandemic. From 1879 to 1904 not a single year passed without the appearance of plague in the neighborhood distant from endemic plague centres. Between the months of March and August, 1894, the number of deaths from plague in Canton is estimated at 120,000. All classes among the native population suffered and rats were found to be affected, but in the foreign quarter of Canton, with a population of about 300, not a single case occurred.

During the next year cases were reported in Hong Kong, Macao, and Foochoo, and in sanitary attention throughout the world was focussed on the threatening epidemic by its appearance in Bombay. Starting in August the disease spread throughout the whole vast territory of the Bombay presidency, and before the end of the year showed a total of 2,980 cases and 1,285 deaths. During that year plague reappeared in Hong Kong, where it has been epidemic ever since. In 1897 the number of cases in India was more than 73,000, with more than 55,000 deaths. In China there were epidemics in Amoy and Swatow, with many deaths in other sections of the empire, and in the following year there were more than 150,000 cases in India, with a mortality of 117,000. In 1897 an international plague conference was held in Venice, Italy, and in the year following others were held in Alexandria and Constantinople. Through religious prejudice efforts to stem the tide were only partly successful.

In 1900 plague was present in every quarter of the world, the deaths in India alone amounting to 92,000 during the year. The Philippine Islands were included in the march of the disease, 150 deaths occurring in Manila. The most notable fact in the history of the plague in the western world was the appearance of 22 cases in San Francisco. In 1891 in India a great augmentation took place, until in 1904 plague caused the death of more than 1,000,000 persons in India alone, and epidemic prevailed to a greater or less degree in nearly all parts of the world.

India, the great centre, suffered terribly in the year 1905, but in the year 1906 there was a great decrease, the number of deaths being about 332,000, but again in 1907 there was a great increase, the deaths numbering 1,200,000. For nine years, Dr. Eager says, Hawaii in 1907 had not been free from plague, but the Philippines now seem to be clear. During the year 1907 156 cases of plague with, with 76 deaths, occurred in San Francisco. There were also a few cases in Oakland and close neighbors of San Francisco. In Seattle the report says, three fatal cases occurred last October.

Uncle Sam Reduces Insanity. Washington, D. C.—Improved sanitary arrangements, better rations, clothes and medical attendance are credited with a remarkable decrease in the number of cases of insanity in the world-wide service of the Government. When American rule was established in the Philippines, the number of soldiers sent home insane was startling. Now it is constantly growing less. The canal zone used to be a breeding place for insanity, but now it is almost unknown there. A few years ago the big Government asylum was fast being outgrown, but the population is steadily decreasing.

LIFE-SAVING SUIT.

The Pockets are Filled With Air to Sustain the Swimmer.

The weight of the human body is little less than that of an equal bulk of water, so that it naturally floats in that liquid. When, however, a man floats on his back in the water his mouth will probably sink beneath the surface, unless he uses some strong muscular effort. By attaching to the chest some buoyant substance, it becomes an easy matter to keep above the surface. Life preservers have formerly been in the form of cork belts. A Denver man now brings out an entirely new form of life-saving apparatus. It consists of a suit having back and side pockets, the latter being beneath the arms. All the pockets are connected with a pump by which they are inflated. Obviously, when the pockets are filled with air, the person wearing the saving suit will be sustained above the water indefinitely. He will also be able to ren-



AIR FILLED POCKETS.

der assistance to other persons, without fear of endangering his own life. The apparatus was designed with the further object of being of assistance to persons learning to swim.

The Gold Key.

In case of hemorrhage, especially in those of bleeding from the nose, our forefathers applied to the forehead and to the nose ointments, and even the patient's own blood.

They practiced ligation of the limbs, a means devised by Apollonius in the reign of Nero, ligating the great toe of the side corresponding to the bleeding nostril, and they resorted to derivation by blood-letting. They plugged the ears with tow, a procedure recommended by Galen. But above all they sought to produce fainting.

Locally the hemastatic most employed was spider's web, with which they filled the nasal fossa. Of all these empirical procedures the most widespread and the one still most employed in popular medicine is the application of cold. The most available source of cold, because it is everywhere procurable, is water, consequently it has often been employed.

In epistaxis the ancient physicians advised bathing the face with very cold water and causing it to be held in the mouth. They also soaked the hands and feet in cold water.

On the theory that cold things restrain hemorrhage many persons replaced water by solid cold objects and hung about the necks of the patients attacked with epistaxis, coral, Jasper, yellow amber, marble or articles of iron.

Physicians pointed out, indeed, certain regions with which it was preferable to make the contact. They realized that it was the coldness of the object, not its nature, that did the work. No special property must be attributed to the iron, said Guyon-Delais, for chains of gold, silver or lead would serve the same purpose.

In popular medicine, however, iron has remained the material most employed to nasal hemorrhages, and the application of the key to the back is largely resorted to in the household. Dr. Helot possesses an enormous key which he uses only as a paperweight. One day a patient pointing to this massive key, exclaimed: "It is to stop hemorrhages." It was a key of the eighteenth century.

We may laugh, says M. Helot at the charm attributed to the key in epistaxis, but we must admit that cold has a certain action in case of hemorrhage. It contracts the capillary vessels. When it is applied at a distance from the site of the hemorrhage its efficiency may be a matter for discussion, but its effect is certain when it is applied to the actual seat of the bleeding, and rhinologists know the value of causing the patient to swallow ice.

St. Helena.

There are now hardly any souvenirs of Napoleon I. at St. Helena. The tomb no longer exists, and the house which is shown to tourists today is not the one where he died. The real house ended by being a pigsty. At the utmost there still exists at St. Helena a willow tree planted by Napoleon, but that is not certain.—M. Masson in the Petit Parisien.

Hamburg holds the record for the number of its fires.

WAYS OF WOMEN INVALIDS.

Workers Often Envy Their Well-to-do Sisters.

"With the best intentions I occasionally say things best left unsaid," remarked the good-natured woman. "Only the other morning, meeting a neighbor on the way to the shop where she is employed, I said: 'I needn't ask how you are, Mrs. Jones, as you are certainly the picture of health.'

"I may be the picture of health," she snapped, "but all the same I ain't well at all. I ought to be under the doctor's care at this minute, and would be if I could afford to lose the time from my work."

"And then Mrs. Jones, plump, rosy-cheeked, and bright-eyed, tossed her head and waxed on, apparently quite offended."

A specialist, who had grown rich upon ailments, real and fancied, of a large number of women patients, once spoke of one of them having to be lifted out of the coach which had brought her to the door of his private hospital. "The good lady really thought," said he, "that she could not put her foot to the ground, and yet there is many a poor woman in this city going to her work every day who is quite as much out of health as she is."

Poor women out of health, and poor women ashamed of being in health, both envy their well-to-do sisters.

"Oh," sighed an imposed-upon boarder in a working women's home, "how many times have I tolled up three or four flights of stairs, carrying ploughman's meals to some cookmate, who, being out of work, wished to be put down on the sick list! If I hadn't done it, the duty would have devolved on the already over-worked housemaid. These invalids could not afford a doctor, but anyway they could take to their beds and sleep about twenty hours out of the twenty-four until it became an imperative necessity for them to go out in search of another job. By reading the advertisements of patent medicines, they had become familiar with the names of various diseases, and my how they had 'em! If they could only have had a doctor in the bargain they would have been better pleased, but a doctor costs money, and the managers of a home probably think they do enough in giving free lodging."

An Exquisite Tea Gown.

At least two or three materials with as many different kinds of lace will be necessary to duplicate this luxurious tea gown, although they need not be necessarily expensive. Although embroidered chiffon is used for the original model, this can be delightfully replaced with the machine embroidered silk muslin, built over a foundation of silk mull of soft China silk. The bertha and border of the front of the gown are of tulle or tulle with very narrow silk soutache braid.



There is a front panel of tucked mull with inserts of embroidery and under blouse of the same materials. The sleeves and collar are also of mull, the sleeves being finished with tiny ruffles of chiffon and Valenciennes lace. Around the bottom of the skirt there are two tiny folds of tulle.

For more expensive models marquisette and liberty satin are handsome and combined with the modish trimmings make strikingly rich effects. The coming modish season shows every promise of the maintenance of strange, and what may have been once regarded, as incongruous materials ingeniously maneuvered into an effective whole, and this is true of house gowns as well as street frocks.

Clothes.

Wearers of fine woolen openwork stockings will find that if a hole in the open part be mended or drawn together with wool, however fine, an unsightly black thickened part will show on the foot when in wear. If black silk (crawel or fine knitting) be used instead of wool for the darn, it is almost impossible to detect the mend. The silk mend is quite as firm and strong, and can be easily stitched into the design. It also has the advantage of keeping its color.

THREE HAD BOUGHT HIS BODY

Diseased Physical Freak Killed Himself to Escape Further Suffering.

Grand Junction, Col.—Fred Vincent, forty-two years old, who had sold his body four times, to as many physicians, and outlived those to whom he had given a bill of sale, committed suicide by swallowing fifty-one grains of a drug.

The act was done in the Royalty Club saloon and was deliberately planned as Vincent told at least six persons that he was about to take his life. He secured the drug at a local drug store in the morning and went from the store to the Royalty Club saloon. There he asked William Gould, the bartender, for a glass of water, saying, "Give me a glass of water, Bill, I'm going over the road."

The bartender gave him the glass of water, thinking he was joking, and Vincent swallowed the poison, and then went to his room, where shortly after he died.

Vincent killed himself because of his physical condition. Five years ago his body became filled with cancers and he sought treatment in Chicago at an institute, where his hands were burned by an X-ray machine and so badly disfigured and injured that he could not work. He told friends that he would rather die than become a charge on the world, and made every preparation to take his life.

Vincent was six feet, six and a half inches tall and had worked as a farm hand here for years. Every bone in his body was doubled jointed and the cancers came about five years ago. He spent the last year in Chicago undergoing treatment, but he grew worse instead of better.

Physicians marvelled at the construction of his body and a St. Louis doctor, a Pennsylvania doctor and a Denver surgeon purchased his body, and it is said that the Chicago institution now holds a bill of sale for it. The three surgeons who purchased his body have died.

Leaving the saloon Vincent called back to Gould the bartender, "Good-by, Bill, I'm dying as fast as I can, good-by." Gould and others in the saloon followed him to his room, where within a short time he was seized with convulsions and six men were required to hold him. Again and again he begged to be permitted to die and finally in spite of the efforts of physicians, he succumbed.

Vincent was born in Fairfield, Iowa, and came to Grand Junction twenty years ago. He leaves a step-mother in Fairfield, and other distant relatives. Friends would not permit the Chicago institute to have the body of Vincent.

STUNG TO DEATH.

Awful Fate Which Befel South Carolina Woman.

Huntington, S. C.—Pittifal was the fate of Mrs. Jacob Meadows of Glenwood, Mason County, who was stung to death by a swarm of honey bees at her home at that place.

Mr. Meadows has an aviary of considerable size and value, from which he annually takes several hundred pounds of honey. The hives are located near the house, where they can easily be watched and guarded from thieves or any animal that might destroy the hives or injure the busy little manufacturer of sweets.

Mrs. Meadows was alone at home, and noticed that the bees had swarmed and lit in a great ball on the limb of a tree in the orchard. While she had never actually hived a bunch of angry swarming bees, she had seen her husband do it often without injury and thought she could do it also.

She tried to, and the bees sensing an unfamiliar presence, disintegrated and swarmed all over the face, neck and body of the unfortunate woman, stinging her in a thousand places until she fell unconscious to the ground, where she was later found by Mr. Meadows, her body bloated with the poison from the stings of the maddened insects. She lingered almost two hours.

MIXES UP HIS FAMILY TREE.

Pearce Is Now the Father-in-Law of His Own Sister.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Benjamin Pearce recently married Mrs. Myrtle Robinson-Force-DeForest-Ainsworth and thereby became father-in-law of his sister and uncle and grandfather of his wife's child.

Mrs. Pearce by her first husband became the mother of David Force. The latter led to the altar Gladys Pearce, sister of Benjamin Pearce. They have a baby. As the husband of the sister's mother-in-law, Benjamin Pearce becomes his sister's father-in-law. As the plain brother of his sister, he naturally is her child's uncle, and as the spouse of his sister's child's grandmother he is the infant's grandfather.

After-Effects of the Grip.

Dr. Clouston, of Edinburgh, said it seemed as if no disease of whose effects there was any correct record had such far-reaching evil effects as this one, and among its sequelae he enumerated a depressing influence on the whole nervous energy, melancholia, neurasthenic conditions, premature senility, various forms of paralysis, neuragic affections and a general incapacity for work.

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Football News. "Keep it Out of the Paper."

If you are an enthusiastic follower of the great American football game, read the exclusive articles of the great football experts in "The Philadelphia Press." Walter Camp, the Yale coach; Mike Murphy, Pennsylvania's trainer; W. W. Roper, head coach of Princeton, and Glen S. Warner, of the Carlisle Indians, are now writing for "The Philadelphia Press." These men are experts and express their ideas and views of the games very interestingly. "The Philadelphia Press" this season is covering all the games more completely and accurately than ever before and it is recognized as the known authority for all kinds of sporting news. The cartoons in "The Press," depicting the current sports, are well worth while.

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