

CAUSE OF THE BUBONIC PLAGUE

The Disease Must be Imbibed First from the Soil.

INDIANS THEMSELVES AT FAULT

Frightful Sanitary Conditions at Benares and Bombay—Alleged Cleanliness Breeds Disease—Fatalities That Await Death Gladly.

From the Times-Herald.

The "Overland Route" to India is all over water, except a bit of short-cut by rail across the Isthmus of Suez.

It is the usual thing for travelers to compare the harbor of Bombay with the Bay of Naples. Now, any harbor with islands dotted about in it, and hills behind it, is like the Bay of Naples.

BOMBAY'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

Bombay city is the capital of Bombay presidency and is on an island, or, more properly speaking, a peninsula, as it is connected with the mainland by a causeway, of which it occupies the southeastern part.

More than 60 per cent. of the whole population is Hindu, and 21 per cent. Mohammedan; the rest is made up of the natives of the Buddhist and Jain religions.

A sea breeze modifies the heat in Bombay in March and April (which it does not do in Calcutta) but in May and October heats override even the tempering of the sea breeze. It is terrifically hot in those months.

DISCOMFORTS OF THE RAINY SEASON.

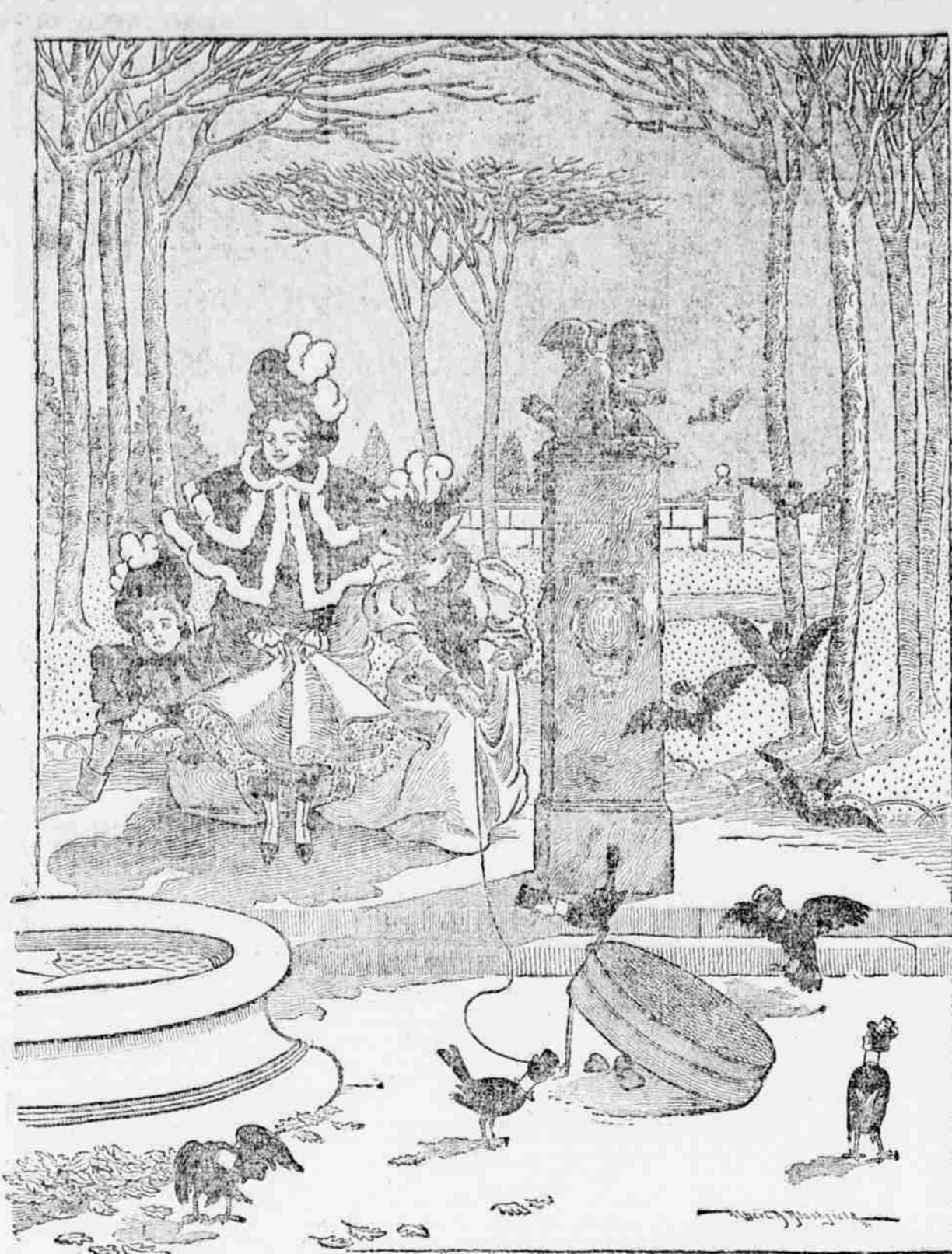
The rainy season may be graphically described as a combination of a steam bath, a warm poultice and blue mold. One's gates and fences sprout, and one's clothes would if they were left out of doors.

Yet, after complete debilitation by steady "toe in the shade" for weeks, and the in a poultice coming out top of that shriveling process, and at night, which the glass often marks, some arctic, and furs and warm wraps are worn.

It is easy to see what disaster the non-coming of the rains in their turn would breed. Enough water is dependent upon to fall between early June and early September to saturate the soil and irrigate the crops.

CAUSES OF THE PLAGUE.

Benares is to Bombay, for example, as pitch is to snow. Benares, being the holy city, the Mecca of the Hindus, is pecked with its unsanitary religions.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY. Life.

of cleanliness. "The Hindu, no matter what his privations, must have his bath every day." But if you could see the bath! There is such a thing as bathing in very dirty water of the consistency of pea soup.

Another holy abode in the Golden Temple at Benares—holily enough to be the residence of a submerged god indeed—is not only a vile stagnant pool, but it is also filled with the rotting refuse and exudes the fearful effluvia of the continuous floral tributes with which pious Brahmins pet their hidden idol.

TWO KINDS OF ANIMALS.

Orthodox Hindus, besides the daily "bath," are often lauded for their kindness to animals. No Hindu will kill a living creature, not even an insect. The effect of this entomological philanthropy upon the persons and beds of the human may be imagined.

ORIGIN OF THE DISEASE.

Dr. James Cantlie, lately returned from Hong Kong, where he investigated the plague from beginning to end, has delivered a lecture on the subject before the Epidemiological Society of London, in which he announces the conclusion that originally the disease must be imbibed first from the soil.

How, then, is it possible that Bombay should suddenly have risen to such an epidemiological height above her sister cities, and reduced her population and paralyzed her industries like lightning, while fonder capitals do not suffer?

DIFFICULTIES OF SANITATION.

But it is true that the difficulties in the way—not only of establishing sewerage, but of having it used—are enormous and almost insuperable. We do not realize at all the deeply rooted caste system which makes the gentle, servile Hindu a very demon of obstinacy when it comes to adopting habits not prescribed in his ritual.

RATS SPREAD THE PLAGUE.

How is the rat infected? asked Dr. Cantlie. He is susceptible if inoculated, experiment has proved; but we cannot assume that every rat has a scratch or open wound by which it is infected. It is more natural to suppose that he imbibes it as miasma in concentrated form or ingests it with his food.

VEGETARIANS SUFFER FROM FAMINE.

The grain eaters, that is to say, vegetarians of India are the first sufferers from famine; and weak as they are naturally from generations of the vegetable-fed, they soon become exhausted when the supply of grain is diminished. They will nearly starve before they eat the cattle, which are helping to diminish their supply.

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season set in. * * * The absence of rain means, of course, dirt in the houses, in the streets, and on the clothes and bodies of the inhabitants.

PLAGUE AND FAMINE AS ALLIES.

Plague and famine are close allies. In time of scarcity of grain the grain is usually bad, musty, covered with mold, fermented. It is gathered before it is ripe, owing to the people's necessities, and until the grain is unwholesome and indigestible.

AS FOR SANITATION, OR LACK OF IT, THERE ARE TERRIBLE ANECDOTES OF BOMBAY'S DELINQUENCIES IN THIS RESPECT.

So far as the progress of the plague is concerned, the reports are encouraging. It is a slow-traveling disease; "perhaps the slowest ever known," Dr. Cantlie says; "it may take months and even years to extend a few miles."

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Advertisement for Cottolene, featuring an image of a tin and the text: Use Cottolene instead of lard and have no fear of dyspepsia.

Genuine Cottolene is sold everywhere with trade mark—"Cottolene" and steer's head in cotton-plant wreath—on every tin.

Advertisement for Radway's Pills, featuring an image of a person and the text: UP TO DATE. Established 1806. Over 26,000 in Use.

Advertisement for Mathusheg Pianos, featuring an image of a piano and the text: THE GENUINE Mathusheg PIANOS.

Advertisement for E. C. RICKER, General Dealer in Northeastern Pennsylvania, featuring an image of a person and the text: E. C. RICKER.

Advertisement for Radway's Pills, featuring an image of a person and the text: RADWAY'S PILLS are purely vegetable and reliable.

Advertisement for Mercereau & Connell, featuring an image of a person and the text: MERCEREAU & CONNELL.

Advertisement for Crown Camel Oil, featuring an image of a camel and the text: CROWN CAMEL OIL.

Advertisement for Viola Cream, featuring an image of a woman and the text: DR. HEBRA'S VIOLA CREAM.

Advertisement for Westminister Hotel, featuring an image of a building and the text: WESTMINSTER HOTEL.

Advertisement for The St. Denis, featuring an image of a building and the text: The St. Denis.

Advertisement for Pennyroyal Pills, featuring an image of a person and the text: PENNYROYAL PILLS.