

The discovery of Laveran in 1880, and the paper of Dr. King, of Washington, in 1883, claiming that the mosquito must be the carrier, did not lead to any definite measures of a preventive nature, but they laid the foundation for further work. In 1897, Dr. Ronald Ross solved the method of the spread of the disease and how it could be prevented. The person must take steps to prevent being bitten by the *Anopheles*; or, better still, prevent the breeding of the mosquito. The case of Ismalia in Egypt is cited. This town is occupied mainly by employees of the Suez Canal Company. In 1877 a fresh water canal was constructed to secure a supply of drinking water. This afforded a good breeding place for the mosquito, and malaria became common in the town. In 1902 a mosquito campaign was started, and since then the frequency of the disease has decreased steadily. Last year there were no new cases, and this, by the efforts of four men acting under the medical health officer.

Attention is directed to the good results from "drainage, oiling the water, and the use of mosquito netting." The mosquito brigade in Havana has done excellent work. Col. Gorgas, on the Panama Canal, has done even greater service. "It was the mosquito that brought ruin to the French project." The death rate in the canal zone is now less than that of the City of New York. Mosquito prophylaxis done almost all of this.

With regard to yellow fever it "has been and absolutely proved to be conveyed by this insect." The variety of mosquito in this case is the *stegomyia*. The work of Reed, Carroll and Lazear were of the utmost value. The mosquito brigade in Havana has greatly reduced the incidence of the disease. In 1900 there were 302, and in 1901 only 5, and in 1902, none.

Professor Adami further referred to the work of Pasteur and the French commission in reducing the death rate among sheep from 10 per cent. to less than 1 per cent. The wonderful work that had been accomplished in the employment of preventive inoculation in rabies. Also in the reduction of the mortality in diphtheria through the use of antitoxine.

The predisposing causes to disease should not be neglected. But the main consideration in infectious diseases must be with the specific causes. "Vagueness gives way to clearness of vision." It is necessary to gain a knowledge of the life habits of the several organisms, "and as a result that each disease induced by these agencies must be proceeded against by special means."

A strong plea was made for the state employing and paying for the services of those who would prevent rather than cure disease.