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Editorial.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

This disease has within the last two or three years, owing to its ravages in India, attracted a great deal of attention, and been the subject of much scientific investigation—some of the investigators sealing their work with their lives. An official report recently transmitted from Alexandria, Egypt, to the State Department at Washington expresses the opinion that the disease is not transmitted by direct contact. This opinion is based on the fact that among persons who have been exposed to the disease, and who were removed to a lazarette outside the city, none were attacked. Most recent writers on the disease have more or less expressed the same view, and the trend of opinion is now strong in this direction. As there has somewhat recently been expressed the fear that the plague might extend to the British Isles, and possibly to this country, a brief review of it may, therefore, not be uninteresting. It is an acute specific disease characterized by inflammation, and in many cases by suppuration of the lymphatic glands, especially those of the inguinal, axillary, cervical and submaxillary regions. It is attended with very great mortality. According to Yersin, the mortality among hospital cases during the late epidemic