

ber of other microbes under like conditions and in none of them have they had any approach to the appearances presented by the Plague bacilli under these conditions of growth in salted media.

The bacillus is pathogenic for rats, mice, guinea pig, rabbits, flies and other insects, and is rapidly communicated from one animal to another. After death the bacilli are found in all the organs. Furthermore, it is rapidly communicated from one animal to another. Though I am inclined to think that too much is being made of this conveyance of the disease by means of rats, nevertheless, the relationship of disease among these animals to plague in man has been noted for centuries, nay more, as I previously pointed out in this Journal,* the fact of this relationship carries us back to about 1141 B.C. in our knowledge of the existence of the Plague.

A curious fact has recently been pointed out, namely, that the known danger of handling rats that have died of the disease extends at most for 24 hours; after this period they may be handled with impunity, and it is indicated, with a fair amount of probability, that the infection is by means of the fleas and parasites on the rat's body which pass on to the hands and clothes of those taking them up immediately after death, which also in a few hours have deserted the bodies, these becoming, therefore, relatively harmless.

THE DISEASE PROCESS.

We have, it would seem, to deal with an infection occurring most frequently through the skin. It is remarkable that the primary seat of infection is in the majority of cases, unrecognizable. Light is thrown upon this peculiarity of the disease by certain observations of Albrecht and Ghon, that the disease may be induced in susceptible animals by merely rubbing some of the virus over the skin, and this even when it has not been previously shaved. In such experiments no marked local reaction need result, but the animal rapidly succumbs. As Hankin (private communication in 1897), Childe and others have pointed out, in some cases a minute reddened papule going

* Adami—Montreal Medical Journal, Vol. 24, 1896, p. 995. Since writing that account of the Plague among the Philistines, and the Trespass Offering of the Golden Emerods (buboes) and Golden Mice, I have learnt that the Hebrew word translated mice, is one which equally refers to rats and small rodents in general. While it is true that mice like rats are affected during Plague epidemics, their wandering out to open places and dying there is not so marked as it is with rats, and thus, if this word refers to rodents in general, the case in favor of the disease among the Philistines and Israelites being the Plague, becomes even stronger. Probably as a result of my note on the matter being contributed in a "Retrospect" it has been largely overlooked. I was not a little interested to come across in last Saturday's *Evening Post* (New York), April 14th, an announcement heralding this same antiquarian discovery by the same writer of a paper presented recently to the Royal Society of New South Wales!