

Australia has inaugurated a crusade against the mosquito. The filaria parasite may be conveyed to the blood by the bite of the mosquito as well as by drinking polluted water. Malaria also prevails in many parts of the island.

The birth-rate of Australia has been steadily decreasing. The Church of England in Victoria has taken the matter up, and is co-operating with the medical profession. It is urged that the government should prohibit the manufacture of all abortifacial drugs and appliances and stop their sale. All houses where women go for confinement should be under inspection.

Dr. Hugh H. Weir, writing in the *B. M. J.* of recent date, on the origin of Beri-Beri, remarks that those who wash the rice thoroughly before cooking it escape, while those who cook it with its dust, suffer from the disease. After the husk is removed an epiphyte develops on the grain which generates a nerve toxin.

Dr. Wm. Murrell reports a case of disseminated sclerosis greatly benefitted by the injections of tiodine, or thiosinamin-ethyl-iodide tiodine can be obtained in phials containing 0.20 centigrammes in 1 c.c. It is best given hypodermically. In one case of disseminated sclerosis 168 injections were given in 5 months. The improvement was very marked.

Dr. Charles A. Duncan, of New York, has invented a projector by which he can throw the picture of an operation into an adjoining room, where the details of the operation are explained to the students by an assistant. Above the heads of the operators there is a disc furnished round its margin with electric lights. In the central opening there is placed an oblique mirror. By another mirror and lense the picture is thrown into the room on a screen.

The International Conference for the suppression of the opium habit, which met in Shanghai, China, sometime ago, has done good work. There were fourteen countries represented, China and Japan taking part. There was an evident sincerity in the minds of the delegates that strong measures should be taken to restrain the evils of the opium habit, and, specially, opium smoking as it exists in China. China was one of the most anxious of all the countries to have the evils of the trade curtailed.

One of the big conventions of the year will be the 36th annual conference of charities, which opens in Buffalo on June 9th, and continues in session for a week. It is expected that 1,500 persons will attend from all parts of the United States, and owing to the meeting being so close to the Canadian border the officials hope for a large representation from Canada. All who can make it convenient to attend will be made welcome to the meetings. Among the speakers will be the leading philanthropic workers of the continent, and every phase of social and philanthropic work will be discussed.