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MODERN PLAGUE, CLINICAL VARIETIES, PROPHYLAXIS

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THE revival of plague dates from the year 1894. Escaping from the western province of Yunnan it reached Canton, an important city and seaport of southern China. The first public knowledge of plague in Canton was in January, 1894, when Dr. Mary Niles was called to see General Wong's daughter-in-law, who was suffering from an inguinal bubo and grave constitutional symptoms. From this remote endemic focus the disease escaped and has spread in lines of advance to numerous countries in the four quarters of the globe. There are two distinct strains of plague, differing in the location of their permanent homes and in the facility for spreading outside the endemic foci. One of the endemic homes of plague is in Western Asia. The strain lodged there does not possess the same power of diffusion as does the Indo-Chinese strain. It was the Indo-Chinese variety which, escaping from its endemic centre in Yunnan, gave rise to the present pandemic. (From 1879 to 1894 not a single year passed without the appearance of plague in some locality distant enough from endemic plague centres; for example, India, Japan, Arabia, Persia, and Russia were thus invaded, but the disease did not develop pandemic proportions.) The startling fact about the excursion of plague in 1894 is that it did not limit itself to a locality primarily visited, but began a series of ramifications that have since become world-wide.

In 1894 plague was introduced from Canton into the neigh-