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**Special Selections**

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**THE ANNUS MEDICUS 1900.\***

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**MEDICINE AND THERAPEUTICS.**

Amongst the many diseases which have been particularly studied during the past year, two stand out more prominently than the others owing to the number of observers who have been at work in investigating their origin, mode of spread, and possible prophylaxis—these two maladies are malaria and plague.

*Malaria.*—Nearly six years ago Dr. Patrick Manson brought forward the theory that a certain species of mosquito is the carrier of the malarial parasite. This suggestion has passed the stage of surmise and it may now be considered as a fact. The investigations of Dr. Patrick Manson, Professor Celli, Professor Grassi, Professor Koch, Professor Bastianelli, Professor Bignami, Major R. Koss, I.M.S., and others have proved beyond doubt that malaria is conveyed and spread by means of certain species of mosquito, and that the essential link in the life-cycle of the parasite—the means by which its existence is assured from year to year, in Italy at least—is malarial man. The period of the year at which malaria is most prevalent corresponds to the times at which the mosquitoes are most numerous. Older observers had noted that malaria was most likely to be contracted about sunset and at night. The anopheles lies hidden by day and pursues its search for food at night. Again, the old observers were aware that the “miasm” was often very limited and did not extend to any great elevation. Naturalists know that the mosquito does not fly far from its birth-place or mount high in the air. The various forms of the malaria parasite have been demonstrated in the bodies of the anopheles. An experimental proof of this theory was established by Mr. P. Thurnburn Manson, who submitted himself to be bitten by some mosquitoes of this species which had been forwarded to England, with the result that he became infected with an attack of tertian fever. Experiments equally important were carried out by Dr. L. Sambon and Dr. G. C. Low, Signor Terzi, and two Italian servants in the Roman Campagna at a spot known to be intensely malarial. By taking every precaution against the bite of the mosquitoes they remained entirely free from infection, in marked contrast to their neighbors, who were either ill with fever or had suffered malarial attacks. Most of the investigations hitherto carried out have been confined to the malarious districts of Italy.

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\* Special Selection from Editorial columns of *The Lancet*.