

ailment in them. Inhaled dust sets up a nasopharyngitis. Cases occur for the most part along the main roads and in country villages, large towns in which there is watering of the streets being comparatively free. The disease in its epidemic form appears to have increased with the greater use of the automobile. The epidemic disappears in the rainy season. (This does not agree with the observation of specialists on the American continent.) Cases frequently appear sporadically and not associated with one another, without (apparently) any possible contact. Children in the same bed frequently escape infection from one another. Two cases rarely occur in the same house, and if they do they point to a common source of infection since they are frequently in the same stage at the same time. The disease in England appears to have changed into another age group—the patients showing an average age of six years. This Dr. Burnet suggests is due to the fact that with the growth of motoring the younger children are kept in from the roads more than formerly. He points out that the number of boys affected is double that of girls. On the whole he thinks that these facts point to a dust infection.

Kala-Azar and Its Parasite.

The announcement that Captain W. S. Patton, of the Indian Medical Service, Assistant Director of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Madras, has discovered the complete development of the parasite of kala-azar in Indian and European bed bugs has aroused much interest in medical circles and among all interested in scientific discovery. This disease is very deadly in Southern Europe, the Soudan, and tropical Asia, and many efforts have been made during the last five years to find the mode of its transmission, which has now been discovered by Captain Patton. The evidence of this discovery will be awaited with the greatest interest by medical men, and, indeed, by all interested in the welfare of tropical populations.

Kala-azar used to be called "Dumdum" fever, and is still known under that name in some parts of India. It

was long regarded by Indian officials as a peculiarly deadly form of chronic malaria, causing chronic irregular fever, enlargement of the spleen and liver, great wasting, and, in perhaps 99 of every hundred cases, death. It was, and is, endemic in China, India, the Soudan, and probably other tropical regions; in fact, cases have been known in some of the Greek Islands, and even in Sicily. In Assam some years ago it appeared as an epidemic, and spread slowly up the Brahmaputra Valley, killing off practically the whole population in village after village, and receiving the name "kala-azar," or black fever, Sir William Leishman, of the Army Medical School, discovered the parasite of the disease in human tissues, and it was evidently quite unlike the parasite causing malaria. Captain Patton, after experiments with various animals, found that the parasite reached a certain degree of development in the stomach of the bug, which, he suggested, might be the transmitter of the disease; but he also proved that the parasite could be developed to a similar stage in a test tube. Moreover, Dr. Wenyon, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, has shown that similar developments can be reached in the stomach of a mosquito *Stegomyia fasciata*. All that has been certain hitherto is that the disease is probably transmitted by a blood-sucker or dirt-eater, such as a bug, mosquito, tick, flea, louse, or fly.

An American investigator, Dr. Wright, has made the curious discovery that the same parasite, or one almost exactly like it, is responsible for the disease known in various parts as the Sind sore, Delhi boil, Bagdad boil, or bouton d'orient—an ulcer which sometimes reaches a diameter of 3 inches or 4 inches, and lasts five or ten months, but then gradually heals and leaves the patient proof against future attacks.

School Inspection in Japan.

Japanese school hygiene has recently been epitomized in a report in German by Professor M. Mishima, the head of the school medical department at Tokio. It has wide interest, since Japan was in the lead of the other countries in the world in its attention to this subject.