

it is conveyed from the rat to the rat flea and by the latter to man. The bacillus may live in the stomach of the flea for several weeks.

The South African Medical Congress, which was held recently in Capetown, was a decided success. There was a large attendance, and excellent papers were read. The Highland Regiment was guard of honour, and His Excellency Lord and Lady Gladstone graced the gathering.

Professor Karl Pearson has made out a very strong case in favor of the position he has taken that the abuse of alcohol tends to produce marked degeneration in the next generation. In the Paris Congress of Medicine, it was shown that alcoholic heredity played a very important part in the causation of tuberculosis.

Dr. Sinclair, Inspector of Asylums for New South Wales, reports that the asylums are becoming steadily more and more crowded. There is a real increase in the numbers of the insane. He thinks something should be done to treat many of the insane in the early stage of the disease, and in many cases effect a cure.

The falling birth-rate is ever before students of the population of the leading countries. It is noted that the better classes in the United States have few children, while the lower classes have many. There is, on the whole, however, a falling. This is beginning also to occur in Germany. As wealth increases, the size of the family decreases.

Dr. Beverly Robinson, of New York, attributes dilatation of the heart to nervous states and irregular modes of life. It may also be caused by chronic endocarditis, renal disease, arteriosclerosis, heavy strain, late syphilis, alcoholism, leukaemia, chlorosis, goitre, angina pectoris, emphysema, and strong emotional disturbances.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea are becoming so prevalent in the United States that the public in many places are forming societies for the suppression of these diseases by spreading useful information regarding them. Much attention is directed to the false views of modesty that have done so much in the past to favor their spread. The California State Board of Health has placed these two diseases on reportable lists.

Dr. Ledingham, in his report to the Local Government Board of Britain deals fully with typhoid fever carriers. He states that these carriers may retain the infection by a long period, and are very dangerous if they act in the capacity of cooks or when they are engaged about dairies. The best system of disinfection should be resorted to. No treatment appears of much value in weeding them of the infection.

The *Medical Press and Circular* of 9th November, takes strong ground on the marriage of those who are too young, or are known to be degenerates. It contends that none should be granted the right to marry under 21, and that all should furnish a certificate of health