

Hungary the disease is not known, and in France it varies much according to the salinity of the waters.

The lecturer noted the reasons for the spread of the disease among the Cornish miners as due to the filthiness of the men and a number of contributory causes. The tropical temperature and the dampness have been efficient aids to the development of the eggs and larvæ, while the former insufficiency of sanitary accommodations at the surface and the absence of anything of the kind in the mines, have been factors to the distribution of infected matter. On account of the haste always accompanying departure from home the odd corners and out-of-the-way places of the mine were the regular resort, and from them as foci the wastes were tracked into all other places. Much of the travelling of the men was up and down ladders where the hands and clothing came into contact with the filth from the boots. These conditions have been very much improved, the surface now being in general well furnished with good out-houses, the use of which is in a way compulsory. For the Dalcoath mine some years ago pails were introduced, and since that time a provision of such appliances has been made obligatory by law.

Hookworm disease has been characterized to be a malady of a barefooted people, but in England the miners are generally shod. These boots are, however, often leaky, and what is more important, much of the work is done with other portions of the body close to the ground. In the warmer mines the workers wear no upper garment, and such contacts as there may thus be with the soil in combination with the ladders are sufficient to account for the diffusion of the disease.

Preventive Medicine in the Tropics.

The recently published Medical Report for the German Colonies, *Berichte über die deutschen Schutzgebiete für das Jahr 1908-9*, Herausgegeben vom Reichs-Colonialamt, Berlin: Mittler und Sohn, contains a record of the clinical and hygienic work carried out by the several medical staffs. The clinical notes, especially those dealing with the treatment of tropical diseases, are well worthy of perusal by anyone interested in the treatment of any particular disease, but the most interesting portions of

the report are those dealing with preventive medicine in tropical colonies. Realizing that no colony could be prosperous without a plentiful supply of healthy native laborers, the German Government has spent considerable sums of money on the scientific investigation of the epidemic diseases in each colony, and is now systematically applying the knowledge so gained to stamp out these scourges of the native population. Measures are also being taken to protect Europeans living in the colonies. The measures adopted in German East Africa, of which we give a summary, show the lines on which the German Government is working.

The following diseases, which in the past have caused most loss of efficiency or lives, were combated as detailed below:

Smallpox—In recent years only isolated cases of smallpox had occurred in the colony, but in the year covered by this report there were a number of small epidemics, in which, however, only natives were attacked. It is worth noting that the natives in many of the districts try to protect themselves against smallpox by inoculation, carried out as follows: they express the contents of a smallpox pustule, mix this with some native "medicine" to diminish the virulence, and then rub it into a small incision in the left arm or forehead. In some cases only a local pustule at the site of inoculation was produced, but in others, especially children, the practice was followed by a mild attack of smallpox.

The preventive measures adopted by the German authorities were the isolation of persons suffering from smallpox, and, as far as possible, vaccination of the whole population. In the year 1903-4 the number of natives vaccinated was 21,453; the yearly number of vaccinations performed has steadily increased, and in 1908-9 amounted to 117,863. The great increase has been rendered possible by the fact that lymph is now prepared in the colony itself, instead of being entirely derived from Germany, as formerly.

Plague—The endemic foci of plague had been eradicated by 1906, but there still remained the risk of its introduction by trading vessels from India; this actually took place in Zanzibar in 1905, 1907, and 1908. The greatest difficulty was caused by dhows with native crews, as these, in-