

transmitter of fever germs. The creature is long-lived, and while it requires few meals, perhaps only one in each moult, it may take the different meals from different persons. Parties native or long resident in fever districts often become, in a measure, immunized to the disease; but tam-pans, from feeding on the blood of such parties, might derive organisms which, transferred to susceptible newcomers, would induce a serious attack of the complaint. Students may shake their heads over this, but the transmission of fever in this manner would not be one whit more remarkable than the transmission of Texas Fever in cattle through a similar agency. When studying the metamorphosis of a certain cattle tick recently, I unintentionally gave this disease to a cow located far from any infected area, stabled night and day, and fed entirely on dry forage. The case was diagnosed by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, the best authority in the country, so its determination admits of no doubt. But the strange part is that the ticks inducing the disease must have had it transmitted to them from the mother tick; this had been collected in a Texas Fever area *ten months before*.

To refer again to *Argas persicus*, the change in location of a settlement affording temporary relief to the Persians may be explained without considering the relief evidence of very local distribution of the pest. All is, the tick only becomes abundant where its food supply is located. It does not multiply rapidly, but takes its meals so infrequently that its round of life is an extended one; therefore, after a few years an abode may become teeming with them. If such a place be occupied after a long period of disuse, the occupant would draw a multitude of the creatures from their lurking places; the presence of a clean-skinned stranger among the dirty inhabitants might also bring out the enemy in unusual numbers. In the long interval between its meals, the tick secretes itself away from its host just as a bed-bug does. Therefore the removal of the inhabitants and their scanty belongings leaves all or nearly all of the pest behind, perhaps to take a year or several years to starve to death. If the people change their location simply to get away from their vermin, it is probable that they look over their chattels to see that none is carried to the new quarters, and thus for a while they may have complete relief.

The apparently local distribution of *O. Savignyi* in parts of South Africa may be explained as I explain that of *A. persicus*. In the north-west of this Colony, *O. Savignyi* has the name of occurring almost solely in the shade of the Cameel Doorn (*Acacia giraffæ*). No experienced