

1880 of the parasite of malaria, the demonstration by Ross in 1897 of the part played by the mosquito in its transmission, have a greater significance for a greater number of persons than any single observations ever made in connexion with disease. Then followed in 1900 the demonstration by the American Army Commissioners, Reed, Carroll, Agramonte, and Lazear, of the transmission of yellow fever by the mosquito. Many scientific discoveries have afforded brilliant illustrations of the course to be followed in a modern research; but one is at a loss to know which to admire most, the extraordinary accuracy and precision of the experiments, or the heroism of the men, officers and rank and file, who carried them out, all the time playing with death and some of them paying the penalty. The conditions were favourable to the demonstration on a large scale of the practical value of the discovery. It was a fortunate thing that the head of the American occupation of Cuba was General Leonard Wood, himself a well-trained physician, and deeply interested in problems of sanitation. Backed by the military arm it took Dr. Gorgas and his colleagues nine months to clear Havana, which had been for centuries a stronghold of the disease. With the exception of a slight outbreak after the withdrawal of the American troops the city has remained free from yellow fever. What is even more important, in the great centres in South America, particularly in Rio, similar measures have been carried out with signal success; indeed, we may say that the possibility is in sight of the extermination of one of the world's greatest plagues, which has cost millions of lives and has at intervals interrupted the commerce of half a continent.

I mentioned yellow fever first because its history illustrates the importance of effective organization. It has been an added merit to Dr. Ross's great merit that, like the fiery Peter of old, he has preached a ceaseless crusade in favour of organized effort against malaria.