

spread of plague. It was not by means of its bite that it transmitted the infection, but solely by the evacuations from its intestinal canal. Fleas prevailed mostly in Japan in the spring. Rats played a leading part in the spread of the disease. Plague was undoubtedly spread from rat to rat by means of fleas, but it had yet to be shown that it was so spread from rat to man. Among measures to control plague epidemics, rat destruction was the most important. Various methods had been employed for destroying rats; poisons, whether chemical or bacterial, had not given satisfactory results. Cats were now being made use of in the endeavor to exterminate rats. This has been strongly urged by Buchanan in India.

THE TREATMENT OF AMEBIC DYSENTERY BY IPECACUANHA. By Dr. George Dock, of New Orleans.

Report on the results of treatment of cases of chronic enteitis, occurring in or near the tropics, with the characteristic clinical features of amebic dysentery, and in all cases with large ameba *Entamoeba histolytica* of Schaudinn, in the feces. Following the administration of Ipecacuanha in doses mentioned below, the amebae disappear from the feces within a few hours, the stools become less dysenteric and in a short time normal, with no more dysenteric symptoms. Continued good health, with no amebae in the feces, as shown by examination after giving the patient Carlsbad salts, up to four years and a half after treatment. In some cases previous treatment with quinin enema, intestinal antiseptics and other drugs had been carried out carefully, but without success. The Ipecacuanha is given in pills, of 0.3 to 0.5, covered with salol, according to the method of Wm. Roberts, U. S. Army. The dose, Grm. 4 to Grm. 7 a day, one pill every hour, or Grm. 2 to Grm. 4 twice a day for one, two or three days according to the severity of the case. By the use of salol-covered pills, vomiting does not occur (or rarely), and opium is not necessary. The results should be controlled by examinations of the feces, and by the use of the sigmoidoscope or proctoscope. Enemata or local medicinal treatment of the colon may be used in addition to the Ipecacuanha.

THE THEORY OF VISION. By Dr. Edridge Green, of London.

A ray of light impinging on the retina liberates the visual purple from the rods and a photograph is formed. The rods are concerned only with the formation and distribution of the visual purple not with the conveyance of light impulses to the brain.