

Nine of the cases were examined bacteriologically by Professor Muir and Dr. R. M. Buchanan, the affected glands being punctured and microscopical examination being made of the fluid obtained. By this method five patients were proved to have suffered from the plague and one post mortem, on another case, afforded enormous numbers of the plague bacilli. It should be noted, in explanation, that where the disease has lasted for some days, the bacilli are often no longer to be obtained from the lesions.

A few words may be said with regard to the precautions in the hospital. There the plague patients were isolated in a separate pavilion surrounded by a high wall; all the discharges (fæces, urine, sputa, etc.), were placed in a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid while in the ward; they were removed twice a day and boiled in a large autoclave before being passed into the drains; all soiled linen was boiled for two hours before being removed from the plague enclosure, while the bulk of the patient's clothes were burned upon admission, the rest being disinfected by superheated steam. The nurses and those in attendance upon the sick were inoculated with Yersin's serum and they had special overalls for use in the wards. No case of the disease occurred among these attendants.

Lastly a few words may be said with regard to rats. The part played by these animals in disseminating the disease has been of late greatly emphasized. It is interesting to note that in Glasgow not a single infected rat was discovered although they were killed in abundance; no dead rats were found about the houses and the disease in this instance appears to have been conveyed pre-eminently by personal contact.

We note that an American health officer who visited Glasgow, considers that the medical inspection there was not as thorough as it might have been, and states that in America the precautions taken would have been yet more stringent. If this be the case the conclusion to be drawn is distinctly consoling; the present wave of plague with our present preventive methods has little chance of gravely affecting Anglo-Saxon communities.

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The Morrice Pharmacological Laboratory, now in course of equipment in the new medical buildings of McGill University, has been placed under the charge of Dr. J. T. Halsey, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city. After spending some time as Interne at St. Luke's Hospital in that city, Dr. Halsey determined to direct his energies towards research work in biological and pharmacological subjects. A year of careful work was spent in Professor Baumann's laboratory in Freiburg, and two years more with Profs. Fittig