

population. Of these deaths, from 40 to 60 occur in isolation hospitals. The remainder are people picked up in the streets by the sanitary force."

The plague enters the body either through the skin, in which case the result is large bubonic swellings of the glands, or through the air passages, when acute pneumonia supervenes. It was the bubonic aspect of the disease which alarmed the world—and in these days of universal trading and intercommunication it is most difficult to control disease—when the Bombay plague gathered head in 1896. To-day it is the lungs which are attacked. The *bacillus pestis* seems to have secured a strong foothold in the regions in which, only a few years ago, the armies of Russia and Japan lay over against one another. The checking of contagion in a country which is infested with vermin—and rats have the reputation of being the chief agents in conveying such diseases—is obviously difficult; because the medical and missionary influence is comparatively to the population infinitesimal, and the people are by tradition neglectful and fatalistic. The danger in these times is that a plague may not be localized, and that by reason of the spread of normal communications infectious diseases of the most virulent and dangerous type may be conveyed from one part of the world to another. But every aid will be no doubt given to the natives of Manchuria by the International Plague Commission to root out a pestilence which has again and again ravaged the countries of the East, and of which Western civilization is anxious to steer clear.

*Tuberculosis Day*: April 30th has been set aside this year as "Tuberculosis Day," and will be observed in over 200,000 churches on this continent. The movement was started by the United States National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis and its leaders state that they hope to enlist all of the 33,000,000 church members of that country.

The annual statistical report of the health of the British Navy for the year 1909 has been issued as a Parliamentary paper (302).

The Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy states in his report that the returns for the total force show a continuous improvement in the general

health of the Fleet as compared with the preceding five years. Not only are the case, invaliding, and death ratios for the year under review lower than the average ratios for the last five years, but the average loss of service for each person has again dropped, from 10.8 to 9.76 days. The final invaliding ratio also shows a small decrease in comparison with the previous five years' average. The total force, corrected for time, in the year 1909, was 112,700, and the total number of cases of disease and injury entered on the sick list was 72,540, which gives a ratio of 643.65 per 1,000, a decrease of 75.34 as compared with the average ratio for the preceding five years. The average loss of service for each person worked out at 10.36 days for the year represents a decrease of 1.04 in comparison with the average for the preceding five years. The ratio per 1,000 of men sick daily on the various stations was 26.75. The Cape of Good Hope showed the lowest sick rate, and as in the preceding four years, the Irregular List shows the highest. The total number invalided was 2,007, which gives a ratio per 1,000 of 17.8, a decrease of 4.3 per 1,000 in comparison with the average ratio for the preceding five years. Of the 2,007 invalids, 1,851 were for disease, and 156 for injury.

The total number of deaths was 362, giving a ratio of 3.21 per 1,000, a decrease of .54 in comparison with the average ratio for the last five years. Of this number 258 were due to disease and 104 to injury. The total number of days' loss of service from venereal diseases was 325,889, while the average daily number of men ineffective from these diseases was 892.84, as compared with 889.15 in 1908 and 903.9 in 1907.

In addition to the usual statistical tables there are appendices dealing with cases of caisson disease, tests for color vision, the examination of eyesight at gunnery schools, the outbreak of beri-beri on board the Sphinx, and other matters.

Staff-Surgeon A. J. Laurie, in dealing with the outbreak of beri-beri, suggests, from certain facts which have come under his observation, that copper poisoning, due to the tinning being allowed to wear off copper vessels, may be the cause of the disease.

The annual meeting of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, England, was