

There remains, however, yet another source to be considered, and one against which it is perhaps, the most difficult to guard. We refer to conveyance of the disease by means of the rats which infest every ship. These animals are, as is well known, peculiarly susceptible to plague, and infection spreads among them with great rapidity. Should a ship become infected in this way, it would vastly increase the danger of the disease obtaining a foothold here.

How then are we to guard against the introduction of this pest? The means by which the disease is recognized and the preventive measures to be enforced against it, are fully described in an article by Professor Adami in our April number, to which we refer our readers. We wish, however, to again emphasize what is there stated,—that in the past the disease has obtained its strongest hold in the foul and unhealthy portions of communities, and to urge that our city authorities be not lulled to sleep by a false sense of security, but at once “seek out and remove the weak spots in our hygienic defenses.”