

Stockenstrom, and Riversdale, no plague in man or animals during the two weeks in question.

#### HONG KONG.

During the weeks ending August 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th the fresh cases of plague in Hong Kong numbered 9, 13, 4, and 3, and the deaths from the disease 9, 11, 3, and 3 respectively.

#### MAURITIUS.

During the weeks ending August 20th and 27th the fresh cases of plague in Mauritius were returned as 15 and 20, and the deaths from the disease amounted to 9 and 14.

## THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

*Staffordshire.*—At a meeting of the Walsall Rural District Council, held recently, Mr. J. F. W. Binns presiding, a circular was read from the Staffordshire County Council stating that a meeting would shortly be held to consider the establishment of a county sanatorium for consumptives, and asking that representatives should be appointed to attend. The Chairman said he believed the matter had already been practically decided by the County Council. Mr. Bonner said the proposal was admirable, but the only question was whether it would not involve too large an expenditure. It was decided that the Chairman and Mr. Clare attend the meeting on the Council's behalf.

*Northamptonshire.*—We learn from the *Northampton Mercury* that whilst many other counties are paying much attention to the prevention of tuberculosis and making provision for the treatment of sufferers, Northamptonshire remains indifferent. Though Northamptonshire does not suffer so much as the cities and other congested centres, the death-rate in town and county is sufficient to make the local authorities seriously consider whether the time is not ripe for taking steps to check it. Last year alone no fewer than 214 people died from consumption in the county of Northamptonshire, and 126 in the borough of Northampton, the death-roll in town and county thus being 340. So far the town and county authorities of Northamptonshire have taken no action, and, with the exception of tentative experiments at the Northampton General Hospital, nothing for the benefit of consumptives is being done. A crusade was started in Northampton some years ago by an influential representative meeting at the Town Hall, and the necessity of urgent united action was enthusiastically affirmed. A local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Consumption was formed, but its energy, says our contemporary, was apparently exhausted by the issue of a few placards proclaiming precautions against the spread of the disease. During the last two years two wards in the isolation block of the Northampton Hospital have been used for the treatment of consumptives on the open-air principle. There are twelve beds—six for males and six for females—and these have been constantly occupied ever since the experiments began; there have been hundreds of applications, but, owing to the limited accommodation, only about forty have at present undergone treatment. The average stay of the patient is about three or four months, and the results have been eminently encouraging, for, although most of the cases have been of an advanced type, there has been an improvement in 80 per cent. In 27 per cent. of the cases the disease has been arrested, and 7 of the patients have recovered sufficiently to be able to return to work. Each patient gets 14 oz. of meat per day,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of butter, and a quart of milk, besides rich milk puddings. Eggs and bacon are provided for breakfast three days in the week, boiled bacon two days, and fish the other two days, and the patients are allowed as much bread as they care to eat. These experiments have thrown considerable extra expense on the hospital, and the governors in their annual report have emphasized their feeling that the provision for consumptives at the hospital should be only a temporary measure preliminary to the construction of a county sanatorium. The institution of these experiments is largely due to Dr. P. S. Hitchens, who has received loyal and able assistance from Dr. G. H. Lewis, the late House-Surgeon, and Dr. Spearman, the present House-Surgeon. The County Council, under the Isolation Hospitals Act, may constitute a whole county into "a hospital district" for the specific purpose of providing hospital accommodation for consumptives, as has been done in several other counties. The cost to Northamptonshire would be very trifling, for a farthing rate produces £1,150, so that the cost would be covered within £150 by a rate of that amount.

## ASSOCIATION NOTICES.

### COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 21st day of October next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

August, 1903.

GUY ELLISTON, *General Secretary.*

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

ANY candidate for election should forward his application upon a form, which will be furnished by the General Secretary of the Association, 429, Strand. Applications for membership should be sent to the General Secretary not less than thirty-five days prior to the date of a meeting of the Council.

### LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Library will be closed until further notice.

GUY ELLISTON, *General Secretary.*

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

MIDLAND BRANCH: DERBY DIVISION (including Derby and the County of Derbyshire).—There will be a meeting of this Division at the Town Hall, Buxton, on Thursday, September 24th, at 4 p.m. Agenda: To elect four members to the Executive Committee. To pass a vote of thanks to Mr. J. Acton Southern, late Secretary of the Division. Mr. C. H. Taylor will move: "That a Subcommittee be appointed to investigate the draft Medical Acts Amendment Bill, and to report on it to the Division at an early date. That the same Subcommittee shall also consider the resolutions referred to the Division by the Council and the Representative Meeting at Swansea." (The draft Act and the resolutions were published in the SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of Saturday, August 22nd.) As many points in the above Act are of great importance, the Committee hopes that members will consider it carefully. After the meeting the following items have been arranged: 5 p.m. Visit to the Devonshire Hospital. 5.30 p.m. Tea in the gardens (if fine). 6 p.m. Inspection of baths. 6.45 p.m. A dinner, which will be arranged for a sufficient number of members wish it. Prices of tickets and place where the dinner is to be held will be intimated to such members as signify their intention of being present.—WINSTAN ST. A. ST. JOHN, 16, Duffield Road, Derby, Honorary Secretary.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### BERLIN.

*The Water Supply of Metz.—Hygiene of Schools.—Antialcohol Propaganda.*

WE all know the German Emperor's fondness for quick, personal intervention, and the sharp language of his occasional public reprimands. But in his telegram to Prince Hohenlohe (Governor of Alsace-Lorraine) on the water supply of Metz, His Majesty has broken his own record. The telegram begins by stating that an epidemic of enteric fever has broken out amongst the citizens of Metz, endangering the garrison, which epidemic has been caused by ("has its origin in") the badly-protected Bouillon spring and the "unheard-of condition of its conduit pipes." The Emperor proceeds to state that this state of things is the fault "solely" of the Metz municipality, which, in spite of unfavourable reports, signed by such authorities as v. Leuthold and Koch, and in spite of repeated protests and warnings from the commander of the Metz garrison, had not made up its mind to the necessary energetic action. His Majesty adds that the present state of things "cries to Heaven." Finally, Prince Hohenlohe is requested to make an end of these conditions without delay, with the sharpest means at his disposal, and to force the town to do its duty. Of course these charges made in such uncompromising terms have caused the greatest excitement in the Metz district, and they have not long remained without an answer. The Metz Town Council declares that the cases of enteric have all occurred in a suburb not supplied by the Bouillon spring. It further affirms that there neither is, nor has been for decades, any epidemic of enteric fever amongst the town population of Metz. It proposes to publish statistics proving the favourable hygienic conditions of the town. Whatever may be the rights and wrongs of the case, the following facts are certain: (1) There has been an outbreak of enteric fever