

## REPORTS ON TROPICAL DISEASES.

## Malaya.

WE are glad to see the first number of a new publication, *Studies from the Institute for Medical Research, Federated Malay States*.<sup>1</sup> In a tropical country the study of malaria and its local aspects must be considered as a necessary preliminary to future work. The volume before us deals fully with the prevalence of the different forms of the malaria parasites found in these native States. Dr. Hamilton Wright finds benign tertian and quartan fairly generally distributed, and subdivided the other parasites into malignant tertian, pigmented quotidian, and, doubtfully, unpigmented quotidian. This subdivision is to a large extent disused, and we do not find any new arguments advanced in its favour. It is satisfactory to learn that European quarters in the larger centres are practically free from malaria, though *Anopheles* are common. Europeans usually contract fever after expeditions into the jungle. The coolies working on settled plantations only suffer a little, but amongst the Tamil coolies employed in the mines and in railway extension malarial fever is both common and fatal. Dr. Wright describes in detail the conditions under which these labourers work, and shows how the overcrowded quarters close to the numerous *Anopheles* breeding pools made in the course of the work favour the spread of malaria. Some seven species of *Anopheles* are mentioned by Dr. Wright, but few of these seem to have been identified. The articles on prophylaxis are eminently practical, and a sanguine view is taken of the possibility of mitigation even under unfavourable circumstances, by destruction of *Anopheles* breeding places, better selection of sites, and more general use of quinine.

Amongst the other papers in the report the last article—on treatment of malaria, by Dr. E. A. O. Travers—is well worthy of attention. He advocates quinine in solution by the mouth in all but the most severe cases, and in adequate doses in children as well as in adults.

## Gold Coast.

The half-yearly medical report of the health of Mantraim (Wassau), by Dr. F. Hudson Evans, is of interest as showing the conditions as regards health of a mining station on the Gold Coast, West Africa. During the half year commencing October, 1901, 7 out of the 13 European residents had malaria, and 1 had dysentery. Four are returned either as having good health or no illness. It is highly satisfactory to find that in spite of the considerable amount of climatic disease there were no deaths, no patients were invalided home, and the average time off duty per man from ill-health was only 1.923 working days for the half year. The mortality amongst the native labourers, who averaged 200, was at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half year, or at the rate of 60 per 1,000 per annum. This rate is high, and indicates one of the serious difficulties met with in mining enterprise in unhealthy places, as most of the labour has to be imported, and is expensive. Half the deaths were stated to be from "epidemic dropsy." Further particulars of this obscure disease would be of interest. The suggestions made for improved house construction and sanitation are thoroughly practical, and will, we hope, be acted on by the company.

## Uganda.

The medical report of Dr. A. D. Milne, Acting Principal Medical Officer for the Uganda Protectorate for the quarter ending September 30th, 1902, is mainly of interest as showing the continued increase in the number of cases of sleeping sickness, and the steady spread of this recently-imported disease. Small-pox is shown to be very prevalent. Amongst Europeans malaria and blackwater fever were, as usual, of most importance. Dr. Milne has not seen endemic cases of plague himself, nor were any reports of its present existence received from the other medical officers throughout the Protectorate.

<sup>1</sup> *Studies from the Institute for Medical Research, Federated Malay States*. No. 1, vol. 1. The Malaria Fever of British Malaya. By Hamilton Wright, M.D. &c. Singapore: Kelly and Walsh. 1901. (Demy. 8vo, pp. 68. 3s.)

CATS AS VEHICLES OF INFECTION.—The Board of Health of Rockford, Illinois, having come to the conclusion that cats are largely responsible for the spread of contagious and infectious diseases, has issued an order that all cats living in the houses in which there are cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or other contagious diseases shall be put to death.

## THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

## THE LONDON OPEN-AIR SANATORIUM.

ON February 7th a deputation of the National Friendly Society Conference, which represents nearly 4,000,000 members, visited the London Open-Air Sanatorium near Wokingham. The deputation last autumn visited Germany for the purpose of inspecting the various sanatoria provided by the State Sick Insurance Fund, and, as they hope to establish institutions on somewhat similar lines in connexion with their Friendly Societies, they were anxious to see the London Open-Air Sanatorium which was inspected by the three winners of the King's prizes, and the plan of which closely resembles that laid down in Dr. Latham's essay. The members of the deputation were received by Mr. Malcolm Morris, the Vice-Chairman; Dr. Alfred Hillier, one of the visiting physicians, and Dr. C. C. Chidell, the Medical Superintendent. The sanatorium, which was opened about twelve months ago, and was built at a cost of £36,000, and is mainly intended for the middle and the poorer professional class. It provides treatment for 64 patients at an inclusive charge of three guineas a week. The buildings are in the midst of 80 acres of pine woods, and stand on sandy soil, at an altitude of 220 ft. Each patient occupies a separate bedroom with a southern aspect, and shelters, some of them lighted by electricity, are placed about the grounds. The average length of treatment is from three to six months, and it is stated that the percentage of those who have left and been able to return to their work is very high. Two resident medical officers are in charge of the patients in the sanatorium. The inspection finished, the deputation was entertained at luncheon, at which Mr. Malcolm Morris presided. The visitors declared themselves highly pleased with all they had seen. They explained that anything done by the Friendly Societies must be on a similar basis, though not on so costly a scale. Their idea was to aim at a cost per patient of 10s. or 12s. a week.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

*An Open-air Sanatorium.*—We learn from the *Australasian Medical Gazette* that the sanatorium at King's Tableland, near Wentworth Falls, New South Wales, which has been erected by the Committee of the Queen Victoria Home for Consumptives, is now practically completed. It was arranged that it should be opened by his Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, K.C.B., on February 6th. Dr. McIntyre Sinclair, late Assistant Medical Officer at the Cotswold Sanatorium, near Gloucester, has been appointed Resident Medical Officer. The sum of £3,535 has been expended on the site and buildings, and £400 is to be spent on the erection of a cottage for the resident medical officer. Messrs. David Jones and Co. have volunteered to furnish the wards.

## UNITED STATES.

*New York.*—The committee on the prevention of tuberculosis of the New York Charity Organization Society has decided to erect a sanatorium for the special and exclusive treatment of consumptives belonging to that city. The sanatorium will not be situated within the limits of the city, but will be easily accessible. The expense of establishing and maintaining the hospital will be met by private subscriptions. It is stated that a sufficient sum is already promised to ensure the success of the undertaking.

## CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTICE.

## FLEETWOOD.

AS was stated in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 31st, p. 266, the medical men of Fleetwood recently notified the members of the Friendly Societies in the town that they could no longer accept the club rate of 2s. 6d. a year, and that in future the rate for medical attendance must be 4s. a member, with a fee of 1s. for each adult member examined on entrance to a lodge. The clubs acting together met and offered 3s. 3d. a member, and this we learn from the *Fleetwood Gazette* was accepted by the medical men subject to a guarantee from each society that the amount should be raised to 4s. in twelve months. It appears from a recent issue of the *Fleetwood Gazette* that this condition was not accepted by the Friendly Societies, and that they appointed a medical officer. This gentleman has since had an interview with the medical practitioners in the town, and on learning the full particulars of the case has declined to take up the appointment.