

is cut off; (3) water in a zinc bucket used to fill the earthenware vessel; (4) water in a small vessel containing peeled potatoes for the day's cooking.

In the Nurses' Quarters.—Comma bacilli were found (5) in the remains of milk in a tumbler; (6) in the wash-up water in a bucket; (7) in the remains of milk in a cup.

Seven further samples were suspicious without yielding anything definite.

The uniformity of this infection led Mr. Haffkine to suspect the kitchen servants as a source of infection, especially the masalchis, who do the washing up in the kitchen, etc. He therefore washed the hands of twelve servants working in the kitchen with sterile water, and examined for comma bacilli. The two masalchis, including one who is stated to have looked abnormally clean, yielded positive results. These two men were therefore isolated and their stools examined from August 10th to 13th—that is ten to thirteen days after the outbreak began—beyond which they refused to stay. In each of the stools passed by these men Mr. Haffkine states that he found under the microscope "comma bacilli" mixed with an enormous number of other microbes. On August 17th Mr. Haffkine reported that he had succeeded the day before in isolating them in cultures, and they gave "a pure growth of very typical-looking comma vibrios." They were obtained from faeces passed by one of the men on August 12th. In his report dated August 17th Mr. Haffkine writes:

The bacilli isolated from the masalchis' bowels correspond, under the microscope and in culture, to the ordinary cholera microbes. Whether they possess the identical pathogenic properties of these I do not know yet.

Coming so soon after the description of "cholera carriers" in a gaol in the Philippine Islands by American workers, the above result will be of the utmost importance, should Mr. Haffkine's further tests prove the organisms isolated from the samples of food and from the native servant to be true cholera organisms. As the Government report was issued to the press on September 23rd, it is much to be regretted that no information is included as to the results of Mr. Haffkine's further tests. The very wide distribution of the comma bacilli in so many samples of water and milk, although but one single meal was infected, recalls the fact that the water of every tank, and almost all unfiltered water in Calcutta, contains comma-shaped bacilli which can only be distinguished from those of cholera by the serum test in high dilutions. Indeed, it was Mr. Haffkine and Dr. Simpson who confirmed the wide distribution of such organisms in Calcutta waters at the First Indian Medical Congress in 1894, J. D. Cunningham having previously laid stress on this fact. We must therefore await a full scientific report before accepting the terrible conclusion that those in India are all living in momentary risk of being infected by cholera through an apparently quite healthy native servant. The comparative rarity of cholera in Calcutta in Europeans since the introduction of filtered water supplies makes it certain that water was the usual source of infection, and this risk, fortunately, can easily be guarded against.

THE MALARIA CONFERENCE IN SIMLA.

The conference, which, as announced last week, was opened by the Governor-General of India at Simla on October 12th, concluded its labours on October 19th, and a Reuter's telegram announces that it has embodied its recommendations under the following six main heads:

1. The appointment by the Government of India of a scientific investigation committee to be linked with special organizations for dealing with malaria in each province, the investigations to be specially directed to (a) the distribution of malaria in India, (b) the epidemiology and endemology of the disease, and (c) the actions of quinine and other remedies for malaria.

2. The checking by professional agency of the existing vital statistics to determine the exact causes of death.

3. Practical measures, including (a) the extirpation of *Anopheles*, regarding which further investigation is recommended to discover how this can be done at a reasonable cost; (b) minor drainage operations, which are recommended when they are certain to be effective; (c) the restriction of wet cultivation near towns when the lands cultivated are known to be a source of *Anopheles*; (d) the introduction of fish into tanks

and other collections of water; and (e) the oiling of small collections of water which cannot be filled up.

4. Detailed recommendations regarding the use of quinine, with reference to which the conference advises that the drug be sold in quantities sufficient for the treatment of a case, as well as in pice packets, by all possible agencies, special efforts being made to induce private vendors to engage in its distribution, a liberal commission being allowed.

5. Education.—(a) On the suggestion of the president of the conference, Sir Herbert Risley, it is recommended that committees of officials and non-officials, directed by the elected members of the new councils, be formed to spread among the people knowledge regarding malaria, and the measures which it is possible to take against it; (b) it is also recommended that the subject be taught in the schools.

6. Local Governments should be invited to make an annual assignment of funds for malaria investigation and prevention.

Canada.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.

AN international commission of twelve, seven representing the United States, and five Canada, has been named for the purpose of devising means of eradicating bovine tuberculosis. The Chairman is Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General for Canada. The other members are Dr. M. R. Molar, Chief Pathologist of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington; Dr. Fred Torrence, of Winnipeg, Professor in the Manitoba Agricultural College; Dr. Schroeder, Washington; Dr. Veranus Moore, Dean of the Faculty of Comparative Pathology, Cornell; Senator W. C. Edwards, Ottawa; ex-Governor Huard, Wisconsin; Dr. Charles Hodgetts, Toronto, Chief of the Ontario Board of Health, and Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Professor of Veterinary Science in the University of Minnesota, with two packers, Mr. L. Swift of Chicago, and Mr. J. W. Flavelle of Toronto.

Australasia.

VICTORIA.

Cigarette Smoking.

THE Premier of Victoria, Mr. Murray, has, we learn from the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, directed his attention to the very prevalent habit of cigarette-smoking by boys and youths, and, as a preliminary to introducing further legislation on the subject, he called for reports on the subject from three medical men, Drs. J. Jamieson, Joske, and Springthorpe, of Melbourne. These gentlemen, in their report, after detailing the legislation on the subject in other countries, declare that "the smoking of cigarettes by certain individuals is quite compatible with excellent health. The tendency is, however, for boys and youths who are not physically strong to indulge in the habit. It is a habit which grows upon them. It undoubtedly interferes with the bodily functions, impairs growth and the digestion, interferes with the circulatory system, impairs memory, and diminishes will power; and if indulged in before maturity it is harmful in a very large degree, making individuals listless, will-less, and morose. In our opinion, cigarette smoking is very bad for boys and growing youths. We suggest that it would be wise to educate the youths of the country through lectures and pamphlets, given both to the State schools and the secondary and other private schools, not to smoke cigarettes, and to explain the dangers to them; and to insist, if it is possible, that boys under 16 years of age shall not be allowed to purchase cigarettes."

MESSRS. H. F. ANGUS AND CO., 83, Wigmore Street, London, W., have issued a new catalogue of microscopes and microscopical accessories, including apparatus for collecting, preparing, mounting, and storing specimens, microtomes, stains, haematological apparatus, and medical analytical apparatus. It contains also a list of mounted specimens and of models illustrating human anatomy.