

However, as public opinion has made it a necessity for all the great passenger ships to carry a doctor we see no reason why it should not also require them to carry a trained nurse. There is probably no official who would do such valuable work at a moderate cost as a trained nurse on board ship. The doctor is indispensable certainly, but his work is to order treatment, not to carry it out.

It is out of his province and probably beyond his knowledge, to wash a patient without causing a chill, though the value of this proceeding both in keeping the action of the skin in good condition—an all important matter in a fever patient—and in personal comfort to the sick man, must be conceded by all. The many little attentions which make all the difference in the comfort and well being of a sick man can only be rendered by a nurse, and the suggestion of the Comte de Cardi should therefore be received in a liberal spirit. Beyond this reform there are others which we believe are necessary in our merchant service. We suppose there is no place which so nearly resembles the "inferno" of the poet as the furnace room of a modern steamship. It has been a pain to us in crossing the Atlantic to see the stokers coming up on deck after their four hours on duty gasping for breath as dying men gasp. The quarters of these men, when off duty, should certainly be made as comfortable as possible. Again it is not only in the navy that men are starved. An enquiry into the way in which they are fed on some of the ships in the merchant service might profitably be made. We draw attention to these facts because we believe that ship-owners have their obligations to the public. It is for the public to see that they discharge them.

MALARIAL EXPERIMENTS.

The prosecution of scientific research into the connection between the bites of mosquitoes and malaria is still being zealously pursued. A description was given some little time ago in this journal of the wire proof hut set up at the expense of the Colonial Office in the worst part of the Roman Campagna. This mosquito proof house was erected in a place near Ostia, which is considered by the Romans to give to those sleeping on it for a single night malarial fever of a virulent type. The Council of the London School of Tropical Medicine agreed to find two skilled observers, who would occupy the house from May till October, that is to say for the whole of the malarial season. The experi-

ment is therefore not entirely complete as yet, but up to the present time Drs. Sambon and Low have remained in perfect health.

In further support of the theory it was considered necessary to prove that healthy persons who had never been in a malarial district would contract the disease if subjected to the bite of infected mosquitoes and experiments in support of this belief have recently been made both in London and New York. Dr. Manson has something of the Spartan father about him for the person selected for experiment in connection with the London School of Tropical Medicine was his own son, Mr. P. T. Manson. He was bitten in July, and again at the end of August by insects fed in Rome on patients suffering from tertian fever. The insects were then forwarded to London in cages, and on the 13th of the present month, Mr. Manson was attacked with all the symptoms of malarial fever, and his temperature eventually rose to 104 degrees, when he became delirious. This condition was relieved by profuse diaphoresis. On the third day after he contracted the fever, malarial parasites were found in his blood. The fact that malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes was thus conclusively established. Simultaneously with this experiment one of the same nature has been performed in the Bellevue Hospital, New York, where six hungry mosquitoes, in a glass tube, were fed on the arm of a patient suffering from malaria, and were afterwards allowed to attack a young and healthy man who offered himself for the experiment. Six days subsequently this "subject" began to develop symptoms of malaria.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

The appalling story told by the *Bombay Gazette* of the arrest of four women on a charge of cannibalism must surely bring home to the British nation the desperate straits to which the people in some parts of India have been reduced.

It is said that at Dapada a Gola died, and his corpse, with solemn ceremonies, was buried by his relatives. Shortly after, the four accused, in all probability actuated by excruciating pangs of hunger, exhumed the dead body, and cutting it up roasted the pieces, and were making a meal of it, when they were arrested by the police.

We must all feel in a measure responsible that such a condition of want and hunger as is evidenced in this story exists in any country for whose government we are responsible.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)