

Annotations.

THE FIGHT WITH MALARIA.

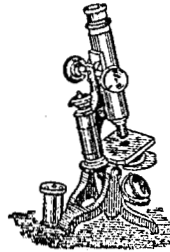
It is a splendid demonstration of the victory of science in dealing with the scourge of malaria in the Campagna that the city of Rome is now stated to be free from malaria, the cases which occur in the hospital returns being regarded, by those in a position to judge, as imported. In his report on the trade of Rome for 1901 Mr. C. C. Morgan, His Majesty's Consul, states that the number of fever-stricken people in the Roman Campagna is substantially decreasing. Government and the public have been of late most strenuously grappling with the malady that infested the district for so many centuries, playing great havoc with the inhabitants. The majority of the cottages are now provided with wire nets, so as to prevent the intrusion of mosquitoes. Quinine is distributed very largely among those who need it, and doctors and nurses belonging to the Italian Red Cross visit the Campagna during the malaria season. In 1900 the Red Cross sent out thirty-five doctors and twenty-nine nurses, and established seven temporary ambulancesheds, where 3,294 malaria-stricken people were treated. The percentage of fever-stricken in the Campagna decreased from 21.6 in 1888 to 6.54 in 1897, the year in which the mosquito theory was advanced, and since then the percentage has been further reduced to 3.73. No doubt in the future this percentage will be still further reduced.

REFORMS IN THE FRENCH NAVY.

It is notorious that Government departments move slowly, and a Ministerial Decree just published in France puts an end to practices in the French Navy which, according to the *Figaro*, seem to have been kept up since the days of Richelieu and Colbert. Up to the present time the sailors on board French men-of-war have had to bathe together in water that was seldom changed, their bedding was never thoroughly cleaned, drinking-water could only be obtained through the spout of a wooden vessel, and, in general, no precautions were taken to prevent contamination by any form of infectious disease. All this is now changed. Sanitary regulations are enforced, glass bottles and earthenware jugs are to be supplied in place of wooden jugs and iron plates, and the dietary is to be improved. Certainly the least a grateful country can do for its Navy is to ensure for it good sanitary surroundings, clean bedding, and wholesome food.

Medical Matters.

THE SLEEPING SICKNESS IN UGANDA.



Intelligence up to the end of July has just been received regarding the progress of the Commission sent out by the Royal Society, under the auspices of the Foreign Office, to inquire into the cause of the "sleeping sickness" which is so prevalent in Uganda. The three members of the Commission—Dr. Low, Dr. Christy, and Dr. Castellani—according to Reuter's Agency arrived in Uganda on July 10th. Dr. Castellani and Dr. Low proceeded direct to the Government headquarters at Entebbe, where they arrived on July 12th; but Dr. Christy, at the request of the Sub-Commissioner, made a detour in order to proceed by land through Busoga, where the disease is very severe. The authorities are doing everything to assist the doctors in their investigations, and the Commissioner has ordered the erection of a laboratory at Entebbe. All the scientific apparatus has reached Uganda in good condition. A complete "sleeping sickness" hospital has been prepared, and on July 29th there were ten cases under close study, and three post-mortem examinations had been obtained. Dr. Low has examined the blood of about 600 persons, with interesting results.

PERITYPHLITIS.

Writing in the *Trained Nurse*, Miss Florence F. Rice says:—Perityphlitis was the term applied to inflammatory processes affecting the right iliac fossa of the abdomen before the era of abdominal surgery, when the diseases of the whole abdominal cavity, compared with the knowledge of to-day, were as darkest Africa to physicians and surgeons alike. Credit for the work of bringing light out of darkness, as it were, in connection with diseases of that region of the abdomen where perityphlitis occurs, when it ever does occur, is largely due to Fitz, of Boston, and McBurney, of New York.

Investigation and abdominal surgery have shown that appendicitis and peri-appendicitis are very common diseases, and that typhlitis and perityphlitis are very rare diseases; that even in appendicitis there is no inflammation of the cæcum or its coverings. The reason for this immunity of the cæcum to disease and the appendix so prone to disease lies in the

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