

further development will occur. Here the fertilised organisms attach themselves to the walls of the stomach and penetrate it to its outer muscular coat, where they locate and begin to grow. After increasing about five times their original size they rapidly sub-divide into a great number of small, spindle-shaped cells, called blasts. The continued growth of these blasts finally bursts the walls of their parent and also the muscular coat of the mosquito's stomach at the same time, and they are thus liberated into the body-cavity of their host. Being endowed with great activity, they penetrate into any and all parts of the mosquito's structure. Now the one thing that heretofore has caused mankind to curse the mosquito as a pest is its power to poke a somewhat elongated proboscis through a man's skin in order to suck from him a modicum of his blood. As the blood does not always flow readily, the mosquito injects a little dissolving fluid, which has the desired effect from the mosquito's standpoint, but is most irritating to man. This so-called poison of the mosquito is its saliva which is secreted from two glands that lie under the oesophagus and empty into the proboscis. The blast enters these salivary glands as well as other parts of the mosquito's body, and are injected with the saliva into the blood of any person who is unfortunate enough to be bitten. Once introduced into the blood-current, they penetrate the red blood-cell, develop, and by sporulation bring on the malarial spasm.

To prove the correctness of this theory of the cause of malaria three heroes of science exposed their lives and health to a series of experiments, the most striking of which was the following:—

Two of them lived day and night upon the heretofore deadly Roman Campagna, slept with their windows open, living as they would elsewhere with the one exception of not stirring outside of their hut during the time when it is known that the *Anopheles* is abroad and also in having the windows and doors of their dwelling perfectly protected by screens. For three of the most dangerous months they remained in perfect health, although the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were suffering from malaria in all its forms.

As a central experiment some mosquitoes of the *Anopheles* genus that were known to have sucked the blood of a person sick with malaria were sent to London, and there the third hero, the son of a physician, a young man known to be free from disease and who had never been exposed to a malarial infection, permitted them to bite him, and in due course sickened with a severe type of intermittent fever.

These experiments and the biological investigation that I have hastily sketched seem to prove conclusively what I stated in my opening paragraph, that the mosquito has risen to a high position in economic importance.

## Legal Matters.

### THE CHAOTIC CONDITION OF NURSING AND NURSES.

We last week reported the case of Miss Eleanor Susannah Gale, proprietress of a nursing home in Brondesbury Road, Kilburn, and described as a professional nurse, who is now on her trial in connection with abandoning infants entrusted to her care. This week we have to record the arrest of Mrs. Sach, the proprietress of Claymore House Nursing Home, Hertford Road, East Finchley, as accessory to the murder of an infant. Although at first denying any knowledge of Mrs. Walters, who is charged with child murder in connection with two cases, Mrs. Sach subsequently admitted that she knew Mrs. Walters, who had worked for her, but denied giving her any babies.

Mrs. Sach appears to have carried on a maternity home at several addresses in East Finchley, the latest, Claymore House, being a superior-looking building containing a large number of rooms, where many maternity cases have been received. Her connection is apparently amongst well-to-do patients; but, if the statement be correct, that while some took their babies away with them, others left the infants in Mrs. Sach's care, the usual fee being £30, they must have been drawn from a strange class.

We regret the discredit brought upon nurses and nursing homes by the constant record of cases of a disreputable nature in the daily Press. At the same time the apathy, both of the public to their own vital interests, and of nurses to the necessity for guarding their professional honour, is so great that a sharp lesson in the risks run by the public and the discredit brought upon nurses by cases of this nature may have salutary effects.

Until the State Registration of Nurses is enforced by Act of Parliament, and Nursing Homes are licensed and inspected by County Council and Borough Council authorities, the same risks and scandals will continue to occur. When the public once realises the perils it incurs in inefficiently managed homes, and at the hands of untrained and disreputable women who assume the profession and the uniform of trained nurses without possessing any of the necessary qualifications, they will then take the necessary steps to protect themselves from these dangers. We advise those who desire to effect reform in the present chaotic and dangerous condition of nursing to bring pressure to bear to obtain an inquiry into the whole nursing question by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. A step towards obtaining the necessary legislation will then have been made. It is essential in the interests of all concerned that the registration of all qualified nurses should be enforced by authority, so that the public may be able to ascertain, by reference to the Register, the qualifications of the nurses they employ.

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