

Ark which they had seized, they sent with it five golden images of the rats which marred the land. The translation in the authorized version was "mice," but it should be rats. They knew that the rats conveyed the plague. The disease, however, was actually transmitted by the fleas infesting the rat. Thus some fleas from the bodies of rats placed in antiseptic fluid infected both an Austrian doctor and nurse.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. Sambon said that it was further probable that fleas and lice were carriers of other diseases. There was every reason to believe that lice in the head might convey tuberculosis. This theory, he was careful to say, might be right or wrong. It was not yet proved in the way that the conveyance of the other diseases mentioned was proved. Some people said this theory was nonsense, but it was not. His hearers would be familiar with the enlarged glands which appeared sometimes in the neck when the head was infested by lice. He believed these to be tubercular. The germ sown early might thus cause latent disease. He mentioned this theory only because the danger was so great, and to show the importance of destroying these head lice by vinegar, paraffin, &c.

The most common hosts of the fleas were cats and dogs, which should be kept clean, or not kept at all. The eggs of fleas were laid in the cracks of floors, and these should be kept clean by washing in water in which soda was dissolved.

In conclusion, Dr. Sambon said that he had only spoken of a few out of many dangerous diseases conveyed by insects. It was the business of everyone, especially at this time, to help to destroy them by keeping their own places clean, and to spread knowledge concerning them. People, he remarked, did not care to be asked for specimens for investigation purposes. He once asked for some bed bugs from a source he thought likely, and he was told to go and look for them in his own place. But he hadn't any of the dear little creatures. He wished he had just then.

Noble lives had been given in connection with the investigation of this subject, and he impressed upon his hearers (in a lecture given in competition with the voices of the babies in their mothers' arms) the duty of using boiled water and well-cooked food. Nothing should be contaminated by moving filth, living filth—*i.e.*, vermin. "If you prefer bugs," he concluded, "keep bugs; but if you want them removed, the health authorities will remove them, if requested to do so."

THE VALUE OF SOLIDARITY.

(LETTER III.)

THE AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION, AND THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.—These three splendid bodies of American social service met under the auspices of the first-named Association for the first time in *joint* Convention in San Francisco, June 21st to 27th. About 600 delegates and other nurses from all parts of the United States were present, besides three foreign delegates, namely, two from Great Britain and one from Holland. Australia, New Zealand, India, and Canada were also represented. The three bodies met in joint session, under the chairmanship of Miss Genevieve Cooke, President of the American Nurses' Association, on the first day. From the point of view of spectator, a listener, and a learner the meeting was impressive and inspiring. Notable women in the profession read papers of great interest, and others addressed the meeting, which was characterised by enthusiasm, earnestness of purpose, and a high sense of the duties and responsibilities of the nurse. It was a gratifying and stimulating thought that this great gathering of women, interested in different branches of the work, had but one essential aim—the alleviation and prevention of human suffering. Under happier circumstances—as the chairman, with pathetic allusion to the European war, reminded her audience—the Convention would have been of an international character, and great regret was expressed for the absence of the delegates from the many affiliated countries, and more especially for the cause of it. An international war had made an international peace Convention—which is what an international Congress of Nurses really means in its essence—impossible. On the following days morning, afternoon, and evening sessions of the three organisations were held in the spacious church and other halls of the same building. "The picker-up of learning's crumbs" went from one hall to the other, listening, admiring, learning. All that these splendid American nurses are achieving and striving for was clearly and ably told at these meetings. They are thorough, and they aim high; they are not contented with mediocrity; how could they be, seeing they have a Chair of Nursing and Health attached to the Columbia University, New York; also the Nursing profession in America enjoys legal status in 42 States out of the 46. How are these things achieved? we may ask. We can unhesitatingly answer, because, and *only* because, of their *solidarity* and their *esprit de corps*, *unity of purpose*, *community of interests*. Anything and everything that is worthy and enduring can be accomplished in this way. It is true that we have disabilities that they have not. We are not State Registered, and we do not enjoy political enfranchisement as do the nurses of California. Nevertheless, to dauntless spirits no obstacles are insurmountable. There is room for more solidarity, stronger *esprit*

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