

the disinfected quarters, and it is impossible to show that the measure possesses much value. The outbreak in Calcutta now is more severe than that of last year, notwithstanding the repeated disinfections which have been practiced. As I have before remarked, however, the authorities are apparently able to account for nearly all the plague deaths and the investigations made after death indicate the exact location of the cases. The reported plague deaths in Calcutta nearly account for the excess mortality, and that is more than can be said for any other city. The disease is spreading in Benares and has reached to the cantonment. It continues to progress from village to village in the Gardaspur and Sialkot districts of the Punjab. In Bombay city plague has caused over 1,000 deaths during the past week. An examination of the total deaths in this city since the plague appeared in 1896, shows an excess mortality over the average of 120,000. The official reports only give 60,000 deaths from plague since its commencement in September, 1896, so that there is a very large balance to be accounted for. If the system adopted in Calcutta had been applied to Bombay, it is most probable that the greater part of this excess would have been found to be due to plague, and it is almost safe to say that Bombay city has lost 100,000 of its inhabitants from plague."

Nature learns from the *Victorian Naturalist* that Professor Spencer, F.R.S., of the Melbourne University, and Mr. F. J. Gillen, of South Australia, were expected to start from Oodnadatta, the present terminus of the trans-continental railway, nearly 700 miles north of Adelaide, on their expedition for the purpose of studying the habits and customs of the aboriginals of the northern portion of Central Australia, about the middle of April. The start has been somewhat delayed owing to the drought which has existed for some time in the portion of the continent to be visited. It is also proposed to cross into Queensland and continue Dr. Roth's ethnological work, and afterwards to traverse some of the larger rivers of the Northern Territory, and, if time permit, to visit the Wyndham district on Cambridge Gulf in Northwest Australia.

AN Institute for Tropical Hygiene was opened in Hamburg at the beginning of March. According to the *British Medical Journal*, it is a combination of laboratory and hospital, and the scientific workers in the first department will be able to find their material 'on the premises,' so to speak. The building has been erected close by the harbor; one wing contains 50 beds for tropical cases, such as malaria, beri-beri, etc. (not for infectious diseases); the second wing is taken up by the laboratories, lecture halls, etc. Here courses of lectures, combined with practical work, are to be held for the benefit of ship surgeons, navy surgeons, doctors about to settle in the colonies, and colonial medical officers of the State. The Institute has been erected by and belongs to the Free State of Hamburg, but the German Empire contributes a share of the working expenses, and the disposal of a certain number of laboratory places.

At the last monthly general meeting of the Zoological Society of London, it was stated that there had been 106 additions to the Society's menagerie during the month of March, amongst which special attention was directed to the male Tasmanian wolf (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), seldom seen in captivity, and also to the Indian birds presented by Mr. E. W. Harper, of Calcutta, new to the Society's series. It was also stated that on Easter Monday the admissions to the Society's gardens were 46,599, being a larger number than had ever passed the gates in one day since the opening of the gardens to the public in 1828. At the close of the general meeting the first of the annual series of lectures was delivered by Professor Charles Stewart, entitled 'On the Protection and Nourishment of Young Fishes.'

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At a recent meeting of the regents of the University of Kansas, arrangements were made for the expenditure of the \$10,000 appropriated by the Legislature, for improvements in the new chemistry building, and it was also decided to purchase a liquid-air plant. \$7,000 will be

expended for additions to the library, including binding. Competitive plans for the natural history museum building, for which \$75,000 has been appropriated, and the plans of Messrs. Root and Siemens of Kansas City were accepted. This building, which is to be constructed of native stone, will be of the Romanesque style of Southern France, and adapted especially for the display of the North American mammals and other extensive collections owned by the University. It will be practically fireproof in construction and will be three stories in height. The regents will also provide for assistants in the departments of mathematics, English and history, and the men have been practically selected for these positions.

OWING to the increased appropriation made by the Legislature, the University of California has been enabled to enlarge a number of departments. The chair of mechanical engineering is to be divided, the present occupant of that chair, Professor Hesse, becoming professor of hydraulics, while the former associate, Professor Cory, returns to the department (after a year's absence in industrial work) as professor of electrical engineering. The following new instructors were also authorized by the regents at their meeting on May 19th. Two instructors in chemistry, an instructor in civil engineering, an instructor in steam engineering, an instructor in philosophy, an assistant in mechanics and two assistants in physics. The estimates for next year amount to about \$550,000, of which \$344,000 are for salaries and \$60,000 are for permanent improvements.

THE arrangements for the celebration of the bi-centennial of the Yale University in October next have now been made public. The addresses include one by President Gilman, of the Johns Hopkins University, on 'Yale in its Relation to Science and Letters' and one by Professor W. H. Welch, of the same University, on 'Yale in its Relation to Medicine.'

THE freshman and sophomore classes of Rush Medical College will be transferred to the buildings in Hull court at the University of Chicago, and after July 1st the work of the two upper years only will be done in the Rush buildings on West Harrison and Wood streets.

More than \$50,000 has been recently given to the University of Chicago for the additional equipment required. The new arrangement means that 300 medical students will be at work in the University of Chicago proper by next fall. The work of the two upper classes is clinical and must be done near the hospitals. They will have all the facilities of the old building and of a new \$110,000 building on which work has already been commenced.

At a special meeting of the council of University College, Liverpool, on April 16th, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That, while gratefully acknowledging the advantages which have accrued to University College, Liverpool, by its association with Victoria University, this council is of opinion that a university should be established in the city of Liverpool; that this council will welcome a scheme with this object upon an adequate basis; and that a committee be appointed to consider and report upon the whole question, with power to make inquiries and to communicate with other bodies.

2. That the committee consist of all the members of council, with power to associate with them any other persons whom they may think fit.

DR. ARISTIDES AGRAMONTE, formerly chief of the bacteriological laboratory, has been appointed to the chair of bacteriology and experimental pathology in the medical faculty of the University of Havana, Cuba.

DR. H. S. JENNINGS has been promoted at the University of Michigan from an instructorship in zoology to an assistant professorship.

MR. H. W. KUHN, who is to receive his doctorate from Cornell University in June, having been a scholar, fellow and assistant there during the last three years, respectively, has been appointed an assistant professor in mathematics in the Ohio State University, from which institution he was graduated in 1897. After graduation, Mr. Kuhn was a fellow and assistant in his alma mater for one year. His investigations thus far have been chiefly in a theory of substitution groups—several papers by him in this line have been read before the American Mathematical Society.

At Bryn Mawr College, Miss Harriet Brooks, A.B. (McGill University), has been awarded a fellowship in physics.