

It is the desire of the Department of Health to obtain information as to the location of the cases of malarial fever, so that the people may be instructed as to the danger of infection and the methods of avoiding it.

It must be remembered that when a person is once infected, the organism may remain in the body for many years, producing from time to time relapses of the fever. A case of malarial infection in a house, whether the person is actively ill or the infection is latent, in a locality where the *Anopheles* mosquitoes are present, is a constant source of danger, not only to the inmates of the house, but to the immediate neighborhood, if proper precautions are not taken.

Malarial fever is quite prevalent in certain boroughs of New York City. It is likely to extend to the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn in view of the extensive excavations and consequent formation of rain-pools in various parts of these boroughs, if means are not employed for its prevention.

The Board of Health desires the cooperation of all physicians in its efforts to disseminate information in regard to the causation and prevention of malarial fever, and in its efforts to restrict the prevalence of this disease in New York City.

HERMANN M. BIGGS.

#### THE BRITISH CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

THE Congress which met at London at the end of last month appears to have been remarkably successful. There were over 2,500 members, including the following delegates:

United States : Professors Osler and Janeway.

Austria : Professors von Schroetter and Davorak.

Belgium : M. le Sénateur Montefiore Lévi and Van Ryn.

Bulgaria : Mikailovsky.

Denmark : Professor Bang and Dr. Charles Gram.

France : Professors Brouardel, Bouchard and No-card.

Germany : Professors Gerhardt, Flügge, Von Leyden, Frankel, Koch, Werner, Dettweiler, Dr. Freund.

Holland : Professor Thomassen.

Hungary : Professor Kórányi.

Norway : Dr. Malm.

Portugal : Professor da Silva Amado.

Roumania : Dr. Cantacuzino was unavoidably absent.

Spain : Señor Don Antonio Espino y Capo.

Sweden : Hof Marshal Printzjold.

Switzerland : Dr. Neuman.

The Congress met in four sections : State and municipal, medical, pathology and veterinary, and there were besides a number of general meetings. The addresses of Professors Koch and Brouardel attracted special attention, more especially Professor Koch's claim that the bovine tubercle could not develop in the human body. No one present seems to have known of Professor Theobald Smith's careful research, showing that bovine and human tubercle bacilli are not identical. At the close of the Congress, the following resolutions were adopted :

That tuberculous sputum is the main agent for the conveyance of the virus of tuberculosis from man to man and that indiscriminate spitting should therefore be suppressed.

That it is the opinion of this Congress that all public hospitals and dispensaries should present every out-patient suffering from phthisis with a leaflet containing instructions with regard to the prevention of consumption and should supply and insist on the proper use of a pocket spittoon.

That the voluntary notification of cases of phthisis attended with tuberculous expectoration and the increased preventive action which it has rendered practicable has been attended by a promising measure of success and that the extension of notification should be encouraged in all districts in which efficient sanitary administration renders it possible to adopt the consequential measures.

That the provision of sanatoria is an indispensable part of the measures necessary for the diminution of tuberculosis.

That in the opinion of this Congress and in the light of the work that has been presented at its sittings medical officers of health should continue to use all the powers at their disposal and relax no effort to prevent the spread of tuberculosis by milk and meat.

That in view of the doubts thrown on the identity of human and bovine tuberculosis it is expedient that the Government be approached and requested to institute an immediate inquiry into this question, which is of vital importance to the public health and of great consequence to the agricultural industry.

That the educational work of the great national societies for the prevention of tuberculosis is deserving of every encouragement and support. It is through their agency that a rational public opinion

may be formed, the duties of public health officers made easier of performance and such local and State legislation as may be requisite called into existence.

That this Congress is of opinion that a permanent national committee should be appointed (*a*) to collect evidence and report on the measures that have been adopted for the prevention of tuberculosis in different countries; (*b*) to publish a popular statement of these measures; (*c*) to keep and publish periodically a record of scientific research in relation to tuberculosis; and (*d*) to consider and recommend measures of prevention. This Congress is further of opinion that such a committee should consist of representatives to be elected by the great national societies formed for the suppression of tuberculosis and also representatives nominated by the various governments. It is further of opinion that all international committees and great national societies whose object is the prevention of tuberculosis should be invited to cooperate.

That, in the opinion of this Congress, overcrowding, defective ventilation, damp, and general unsanitary conditions in the houses of the working classes diminish the chance of curing consumption and aid in predisposing to and spreading the disease.

That while recognizing the great importance of sanatoria in combating tuberculosis in every country the attention of governments should be directed towards informing charitable and philanthropic individuals and societies of the necessity for anti-tuberculous dispensaries as the best means of checking tuberculous disease amongst the industrial and indigent classes.

That the following question be submitted to the consideration of the next Congress: The constitutional conditions of the individual which predispose to tuberculosis and the means whereby they can be modified.

#### GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT PIKERMI.\*

THE geological excavations which the Trustees of the British Museum have (by the kind permission of Mr. Skousés, the owner of the ground) been carrying on at the Pliocene deposits of Pikermi, near Athens, since the early spring, have now been brought to a conclusion for the season. Judging from the preliminary reports which have been received from Dr. A. Smith Woodward, who was sent out by the Museum to superintend the excavations, the results from a scientific and pecuniary point of view have well justified the trustees in their decision to undertake this important piece of

geological research. We believe that the initiative in the matter is due to Sir Edwin Egerton, H. M. Minister at Athens, who was also mainly instrumental in obtaining the necessary permit to excavate from Mr. Skousés, formerly Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. The willing co-operation of the University of Athens in the person of Professor Skuphos, the accomplished paleontologist of the University Museum, was easily secured, and his help and advice have been invaluable throughout the whole period of the work. The most cordial relations have existed between Professor Skuphos and Dr. A. S. Woodward, and the division of the specimens which have been discovered has, it is understood, been amicably arranged by the British Museum and the University of Athens. It is said to be extremely doubtful whether there is any Greek law assimilating fossils to works of art; but, however that may be, we are happy in knowing that both the institutions concerned are satisfied with the agreement which has been arrived at as regards the portion of the collections which each is to retain.

Pikermi, where the fossils are found, is near the Marathon road, about 12 miles from Athens; and the specimens are usually found at a considerable depth below the bed of a mountain torrent. This is, of course, not the first time that excavations have been made in these deposits. In the early fifties Professor Albert Gaudry, the eminent French geologist, conducted some explorations which resulted in a great find of Tertiary mammalia, identical with those of Léberon, Samos and Maragah. Most of the specimens obtained by Gaudry are in the Paris Museum. Later, the Vienna Academy made a collection on a smaller scale from the same place; and about 1885 the Duke of Orleans was allowed to dig there, but he remained only a short time and found nothing of importance. Before the present occasion no Englishman had made any geological research at Pikermi, and the British Museum contained no collection from these beds. This deficiency in our great national storehouse has now been made good in a splendid manner, as may be judged from the fact that 47 large cases containing the Museum's share of the fossils found are at the present moment on their way to England.

\* From the *London Times*.