Port Townsend in Washington; Hamburg and Constantinople. In the remainder of the places the outbreaks were comparatively small, and did not assume the proportions of a great epidemic. This shows that a scientific knowledge of the disease renders it far less to be dreaded than formerly, and shows also a gratifying vigilance and alertness on the part of quarantine and health officers. The principal ravages of the disease have been confined to India, where from the last reports there have been 66,294 deaths during the year, and where it is notorious that the preventive measures undertaken by the British Indian Government have been seriously hampered by the religious fanaticism of the native population, and the difficulty of undertaking any epidemic suppressive measures without interfering with the laws of religious and racial caste.

CANADA.

CAUSE OF ARSENIC IN BEERS.

The recent report from Manchester, England, in connection with the deaths and illnesses which have occurred through beer-drinking, has directed some attention to the Canadian product and the vice. About twenty years ago legislation was introduced by Mr. Gladstone into the British Parliament authorizing the substitution of invert sugar for malt in the manufacture of beer, and the duty was removed from the malt and placed on the beer brewed. This change was known as the "Free-Mash-Tun" system. These invert sugars, as saccharin, glucose and maltose have to be treated with sulphuric acid, and it is when this is used impure, as it frequently contains arsenic, and the latter being soluble, is not separated, that the beer will contain arsenic. The two great countries which have adopted the "Free-Mash-Tun" referred to are England and the United States, whilst the two countries which have not adopted this system are Germany and Canada. In the latter the law provides that no substitute for malt whatever shall be used, the duty being imposed exclusively thereon, and no duties resting on the beer produced. In Canada no substitute is allowed under heavy penalties.

TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM.

The National Sanitarium Association has come forward with a more distinct and definite offer to build and erect near their Muskoka Cottage Sanitarium accommodation for the consumptives of Toronto. They will proceed with the work immediately and fully expect to have it completed in a year. No aid whatever will be asked from the city on account of capital account; and the institution will be available for the city's poor patients with free transportation to and from Gravenhurst on payment by the corporation of the City of Toronto of only the usual per diem allowance. The plans of the National Association also contemplate the erection of a suitable institution about five or six miles from the city for those advanced cases which have no hope of recovery. The National Sanitarium Association has already spent \$77,000 on capital account for the treatment of consumption.

MONTREAL MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL.

The proposed new Civic Hospital for Montreal is getting well under way. Four pavilions for hospital purposes will be erected with a central administration building. Each building will consist of two floors and will accommodate fifty patients, with twelve beds for private cases. The estimated cost will be \$100,000, which will be raised by means of a loan, repayable, principal and interest, within twenty years. The control of the institution will be in a joint board of nine members, made up as follows:—Five members, including the chairman to be appointed by the city council; two members to be named by the executive boards of the English general hospitals, and two members from those of the French hospitals. All matters of expenditure and finance will be subject to ratification by the city council.

FOREIGN.

FOURTEEN medical men have recently been elected, according to the *Lancet*, to the mayorial chair in England and Wales.

THE FRENCH minister of public instruction has notified the high schools—colleges et lycées—that anti-alcohol instruction should be given an official place on the program on a par with arithmetic or grammar.

THE FAMINE in India is nearly at an end. According to the correspondent of the London *Lancet*, those seeking relief are now only 1,250,000, and the Indian harvest promises to be a large one. The plague remains about the same, with a weekly mortality of about 2000.

THE ITALIAN physicians are endeavoring to have their parliament pass a bill restricting the issuance of licenses to foreigners holding diplomas from countries granting a like priv-

ilege to Italy. A clause, however, is attached thereto which practically will shut out all foreign practitioners. The envious native practitioner desires the wealthy American and English patients who winter in his land.

DR. R. FIELDING-OULD, Dr. C. Balfour Stewart and Dr. A. S. Grünbaum have recently been appointed lecturers in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

THE PARIS Faculty of Medicine have decided to establish a chair of tropical medicine for the purpose of teaching the parasitology and bacteriology of tropical diseases.

THE FRENCH chamber of deputies has unanimously adopted a resolution asking the government to prohibit the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic liquors pronounced "dangerous" by the Academy of Medicine. The resolution was aimed at absinthe. "The increase of the consumption of absinthe," said the mover, "marches arm in arm with the increase of cases of driving insanity, which will end in becoming a national disaster."

IN THE name of twenty university professors of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Prof. Max Gruber, of Vienna, has written a brief, forcible appeal to university students pointing out the terrible increase in venereal diseases in general and also among students, and portraying in plain terms the dangers to self and the future family. The urgent warning is given to seek medical aid at once in case of infection. Every newly-inscribed student receives a copy of this pamphlet.

THE BRITISH CONGRESS OF TUBERCULOSIS, notice of which has already appeared in these columns, will be opened in London on July 22, 1901, a week previous to the meeting of the British Medical Association. The congress will last four days. Delegates are to be invited from foreign countries, and it will be international to a certain extent. It will transact business in four sections, viz., Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, State Medicine and Pathology. One hundred pounds has been appropriated by the British Medical Association toward the expenses of the concern.

THE *Deutsche Med. Woch.* of November 15 publishes the brief, final report of the malaria expedition in charge of Prof. Koch. The party returned by way of the Carolina and Ladrone islands, where numbers of children were examined for malaria, but no traces of it could be found. Many persons were brought to him suffering from supposed syphilis, lupus or leprosy, but investigation disclosed that the disease was frambesia—yaws—in every case; in some of the islands every child examined was found to have it. Several genuine foci of malaria were located in the neighborhood of Cairo. None could be discovered in Northern Germany suitable for the purposes of the expedition, not even in the formerly notoriously malarial marsh lands along the coast of the North Sea. Malaria seems to be rapidly diminishing in Northern Germany. The expedition, therefore, considers its task provisionally accomplished.

Correspondence.

Newspaper Notoriety—A Protest.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5, 1900.

To the Editor:—Have medical men no protection against "write ups" in the columns of the daily press? In the *Chicago Daily News* of to-day appears an offensive and grossly incorrect sketch of myself which was not only unwarranted and without my knowledge or consent, but which deals with my blindness in a way that is most degrading to my self-respect. My only consolation lies in the consideration that those colleagues whose respect I value can not read that article without appreciating the fact that it could not have emanated in any wise from me. I have many times been solicited by reporters to allow them to publish sketches of my professional career. In most instances I have flatly refused such permission. In a few instances, when told that the knowledge of my endeavors would stimulate other unfortunates to rise above their affliction and would thus prove a help to them, I have consented to the publication of a sketch of my life. I have always, however, scrupulously avoided any allusion to the nature of my special line of work lest I should be accused of unprofessional advertising. And now comes an article which violates every sense of decency in my nature and brings my name before the public in a manner that is brutal in its disregard of my feelings. I am humiliated and chagrined.

ROBERT H. BABCOCK, M.D.