

Editorial Notes and Comments.

Elsewhere we have published an important and learned article from the pen of Dr. T. G. Stonham, M. D. Editor of the British Homœopathic Journal. Dr. Stonham was pleased to write this article specially for the Indian Homœo. Reporter and we shall remain ever grateful to him for this kindness on his part. It will be regarded as an earnest of our promise made in the editorial *announcement*.

Aluminium and its effects on the human system. Every one of us is aware of the fact that a huge sum of money is at present spent in the manufacture and sale of Aluminium vessels and utensils for the purpose of cooking and preserving our foods. It is, no doubt, a convenient metal light to handle and carry. And withal in Aluminium kettles water speedily boils. But in spite of these advantages, we have not yet ascertained whether this metal resists chemical action. Dr. Le Huute Cooper, M. D., an eminent British Homœopath, has spent many midnight oils over this question and come to a definite conclusion that the metal is a poison, a soluble poison, an active chemical substance capable of causing innumerable unhealthy sensations and conditions. Every man in our country, either rich or poor, daily uses Aluminium vessels in the preparation of his food and as such he is being unwittingly poisoned.

Dr. Cooper has sent us a copy of his laborious investigations for publication in the pages of our Journal. We take great pleasure to publish it in another place. The perusal of his article will throw much light on the subject and will warn us of the ill consequences from the use of this metal.

Malaria and Mosquito—The All-India Allopathic Medical Conference was held this year in Calcutta. The Con-

ference passed some important resolutions and requested the Government of Bengal to take recourse to active measures for checking the progress of Malaria in this province. Many a prosperous village have been converted into dreary deserts by the ravages of this dreadful pest carrying on its devastating course with unabated fury.

The Conference clearly indicated the lines on which the work would be conducted.

First of all it is necessary to find out the various species of Anophelinae which carry the germs of Malaria in the province of Bengal.

It is now an uncontested truth that all Anopheline mosquitoes do not carry the malarial germs. Some species have a preference for Cow's blood, some the juice of vegetables, some human blood, and there are some who do not make any discrimination as regarding bovine and human blood and suck whichever is available. All these are not found to breed in the same kind of water, although several species are often found to breed in the same reservoir of water. In our opinion a very careful and systematic mosquito survey is absolutely necessary to find out the carrier species and their habits of breeding and prevalence.

We have gone through three very interesting and edifying reports dealing with mosquito control at Biruagar, where a systematic study of the habits of Anopheline species are being conducted for the last five years with the help of the Malaria Research Laboratories of the Government of Bengal, the Malaria Survey of India and Colonel Sir S. R. Christophers, an eminent authority on Malaria in India. It can be found in these reports that there are 11 Anopheline species of which malarial parasites were found only in one species called *Anopheles philippinensis* in a systematic manner in the season when malaria is preva-

lent. This species was detected almost exclusively in dwelling houses which proves that it is principally a lover of human blood. It possesses the habit of moving about more at night time than during the day from which it can be inferred that it infects people mostly at night time. It has been observed to breed in large *Bils*, certain old *Dighis* and tanks. There are certain pools and tanks where it does not breed at all. Investigations are being conducted to find out the causes of such variations in breeding and much light is likely to be thrown on the subject in the near future.

We have read that in the Federated Malay States extremely good results were obtained through "species sanitation," i. e. by conducting operations against the carrier species only.

Bengal is pregnant with innumerable reservoirs of water of various denominations, such as canals, *bils*, *dighis*, tanks, pools and depressions and so it is an impossible task to deal with all by oil or paris green and a careful study of the Anopheline mosquitoes breeding in those places is necessary to conclude whether money can be usefully spent on them.

The All-India Medical Conference did yeomen's service to have laid stress on the point that Government should start anti-larval centres in certain areas in Bengal. It is to be noted that this suggestion was made by the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations, but unfortunately the Government slept over the recommendations of the commission, which strongly supported Dr. Bentley's scheme of flooding and flushing the rivers, canals, *bils* and tanks with the rich red flood water of the Padma by reopening the heads of the Baghiratbi, the Jelanghi and the Matabhanga. This scheme was highly approved by such eminent experts as Sir Malcolm Watson and Sir

William Willeoks. We are glad to hear that the Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Singh Roy, the Minister for Local Self-government has promised to consider the question of opening a few selected anti-larval centres in Bengal when the Birnagar Municipality presented an address of welcome to him when he visited that place.

We are glad to hear that a conference was held at Jheniada, Jessore, on the 1st May, 1932 under the presidency of our distinguished countryman Rai Bahadur Jadu Nath Majumder, M. A. B. L. C. I. E. to give effect to the recommendation of Dr. Bentley. In the conference the district Magistrates of Jessore and Nadia and the Chairmen of the District Boards of these two districts along with some prominent members of the two Boards were present. The District Boards have accepted the resolutions passed in the said Conference and the two Boards have consented to bear the whole expenses in carrying out the schemes according to a certain proportion. We are pleased to know that the schemes have already been sanctioned by the Government.

They propose for the present to join the river Nava-ganga with the river Mathabangha and to this end schemes have been prepared by the District Engineer of Jessore with the help of the District Engineer of Nadia. These Districts are gradually becoming depopulated. For instance let us think of Jessore. It enjoyed a population of 21,00,000 in 1871, in 1921 the population in the District was 17,22,000 and it has now come down to 16,71,000 as the census report of 1931 indicates. Nadia and Murshidabad unfortunately, also shew a similar depopulation. If the silting up of the rivers be remedied and if the aforesaid schemes be launched forth into action without any delay, Malaria will be driven out from the districts to a considerable extent. We shall watch the movements of the District Boards in anxious suspense.