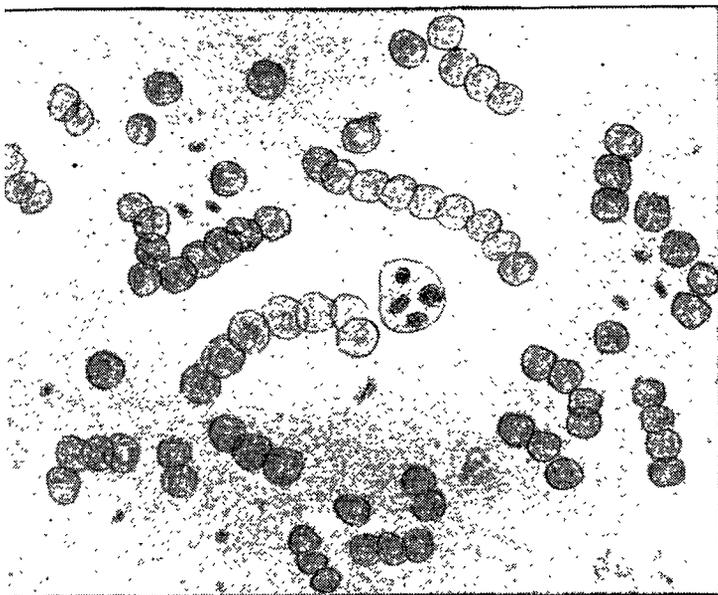


Madeira; rainless and cloudless days are more frequent, and the temptations to invalids to overdo their strength are consequently greater. There is also more wind and more dust." Regarding Puerto Orotava, the author says: "In a good winter there is but little cold weather, but what cold there may be is felt, as it is accompanied by damp. From the middle of January to the end of February is the worst time, and in a bad year may be disagreeable, the sky being overcast day after day, and the sun being obscured by the thick mantle of clouds which will then envelop the island. Such winters are, however, the exception ..... a day when there is no sunshine, or when one cannot be out of doors for at least three or four hours, is almost unknown."

THE PLAGUE AT HONG-KONG.

WE have received the following notes from Dr. J. A. Lawson of Hong-Kong, who has forwarded a number of preparations of the plague bacillus, some of them prepared for him by Professor Kitasato, others prepared by himself, of which we give several representations. The organism—which is a bacterium resembling the bacilli found in the hæmorrhagic septicæmias, except that the ends are somewhat more rounded—when stained lightly appears almost like an encapsuled diplococcus, but when more deeply stained it has the appearance of an ovoid bacillus, with a somewhat lighter centre, especially when not accurately focussed. When, however, it is focussed more accurately it is still possible to make out the diplococcus form. It is quite possible that the capsule has been produced artificially,

FIG. 1.

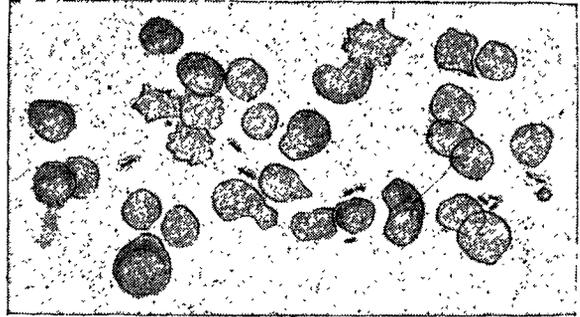


Ob. 1/2 homog. + oc. 8 compens.; length of tube 140 mm. Bacilli and blood from case of plague. Illustration of preparation made by Professor Kitasato and forwarded by Dr. Lawson.

though in Fig. 3 this does not appear to be the case. The positions in which it is most frequently met with—sometimes apparently in almost pure cultures—are the glandular enlargements which occur in the groin, in the axilla, and in the neck, though these enlargements are not always met with in the rapidly fatal cases. These enlarged glands are intensely congested, or rather they appear to be infiltrated with blood. In this blood, which is in a state of disintegration, mixed with the elements of the glandular tissue which are also broken down, the organisms are exceedingly numerous. They are also met with in considerable numbers in the spleen and in the other organs in those positions where there is a slowing of the circulation as it passes through capillary networks or sinuses. The

organisms are also found even in the blood in the heart and large bloodvessels, as seen in Fig. 1. Dr. Lawson hopes shortly to be able to send an account of the disease and also

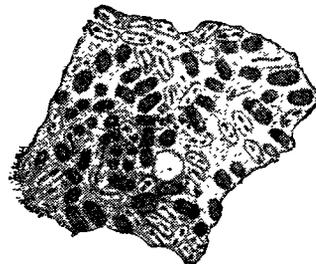
FIG. 2.



Ob. 1/2 homog. + oc. 8 compens.; length of tube 180 mm. Bacilli in blood of mouse. Illustration of preparation made by Professor Kitasato and forwarded by Dr. Lawson.

of the appearance of the micro-organisms when cultivated outside the body; but he says: "I have recently been so

FIG. 3.



Ob. 1/2 homog. + oc. 8 compens.; length of tube 180 mm. Illustration of preparation of splenic pulp in case of plague made by Dr. Lawson.

engaged in looking after the sick, organising hospital work, inspecting insanitary houses, and looking after the disposal

FIG. 4.



Ob. 1/2 homog. + oc. 8 compens.; length of tube 140 mm. Illustration of plague bacillus prepared by Professor Kitasato and sent by Dr. Lawson

of the dead that I have been unable to find time to do more than send you these few notes and specimens, which, however, I thought might be of interest to some of your readers."

EXHIBITION OF AMBULANCE WORK AT CHUDLEIGH.—On July 26th the annual exhibition of the Chudleigh Cottage Garden Society was held in a field close to Chudleigh Rocks. In the evening the Ambulance and Field Stretcher Bearer Company, under the direction of Surgeon-Captain C. L. Cunningham, gave an excellent exhibition, in which they showed that they had fully availed themselves of the lessons in ambulance work received from their director. A sham fight was organised between a supposed party of Arabs and a company of Engineers; the wounded were brought out of action and were promptly attended to with all proper detail. The men in the course of the sham fight availed themselves for signalling purposes of an ingenious method of signalling invented by Surgeon-Captain Cunningham for use in the Soudan campaign.