

**THE ASIATIC PLAGUE AT HONOLULU.**

The appearance of the Asiatic plague in the Sandwich Islands, where, at latest accounts it was not only spreading throughout the Archipelago but increasing in virulence, is a sinister and deplorable fact. While the source of the infection is not certainly known, the general belief is entertained that it was introduced into Honolulu by the Japanese steamer "Nippon Maru" which touched at that port sometime in September after a voyage in which several of her steerage passengers died of the disease. Though every precaution was taken by the quarantine authorities of Honolulu to prevent the contact with either freight or passengers of the steamer, it would appear that the infection was communicated in some way or else was conveyed in shipments of goods from Japan or China, to the islands where they are largely consumed.

The possibility of contagion has been admitted by the Honolulu authorities and most careful preparations were made for coping with the emergency as soon as signs appeared, but months passed without any alarming indications, and, it is possible, vigilance was somewhat neglected. On December 12, the first case appeared. A Chinaman of the better class died with mysterious symptoms. He had been attended by a native practitioner who pronounced the disease as the plague. Another Chinaman died on the same day of the same complaint. Autopsies proved the suspicions to be correct, and then began the stringent and drastic attempts to slay the threatened catastrophe. The bodies of both victims with all their surroundings were cremated. Every person with whom the patients had come in contact were rigidly isolated. The houses were all fumigated and surrounded with guards, and it was hoped that these means would be effective in confining the contagion to the quarters, where it first appeared. No attempt was made to conceal the real facts from the public, on the contrary the citizens were informed of every measure taken by the health authorities, and exhorted to co-operate in all ways. The town was thoroughly cleansed and a free distribution of disinfectants was made. The plague rapidly manifested itself, and by December 14, six fatal cases had occurred, all among the laboring classes. The infected region of the city was quarantined, twenty blocks in all. The houses where the plague had appeared were burned and the authorities assumed the task of feeding those whose income had been cut off by the quarantine. On December 20, 2,500 were being fed and housed.

The plague at this point seemed to be stayed, for up to December 30 only nine cases were reported, of which eight resulted fatally. After this there was a rapid increase. For the week ending January 6 a total of twenty-one cases had been treated, of which ten had died. For the next three weeks there were twenty-nine cases and twenty-six deaths.

On January 21, during the ignition of a plague-stricken domicile, the flames, driven by a high wind soon got beyond control, and before long the whole of the Asiatic quarter was in flames. No attempt was made to save the district, but all the firemen's efforts were concentrated in preventing the destruction of the whole city. In this they were successful, though not until eighteen entire blocks of Chinese houses and shops were consumed. The confusion and frantic alarm of the Asiatic element was beyond description. Over 5,000 were rendered homeless and became a public charge.

Honolulu had, in the meantime, been quarantined against by all the neighboring islands, and the rest of the world besides, and was completely isolated. The internal administration of the plague-stricken community was directed toward keeping the plague in check. An appropriation of several hundred thousand dollars to pay for property destroyed and for sanitary purposes was soon expended. The loss by the great fire was fully a million and the end was not in sight, but the heroism of the citizens did not shrink and no sacrifice

that would prevent the infection from becoming seated in the islands with the attendant losses of life and business was too great. A system of local inspection was inaugurated. House to house visitation was begun and every one, regardless of age, sex or condition was compelled to submit to almost daily examination. The responsibility fell upon the 7,000 whites of a community numbering above 40,000 souls.

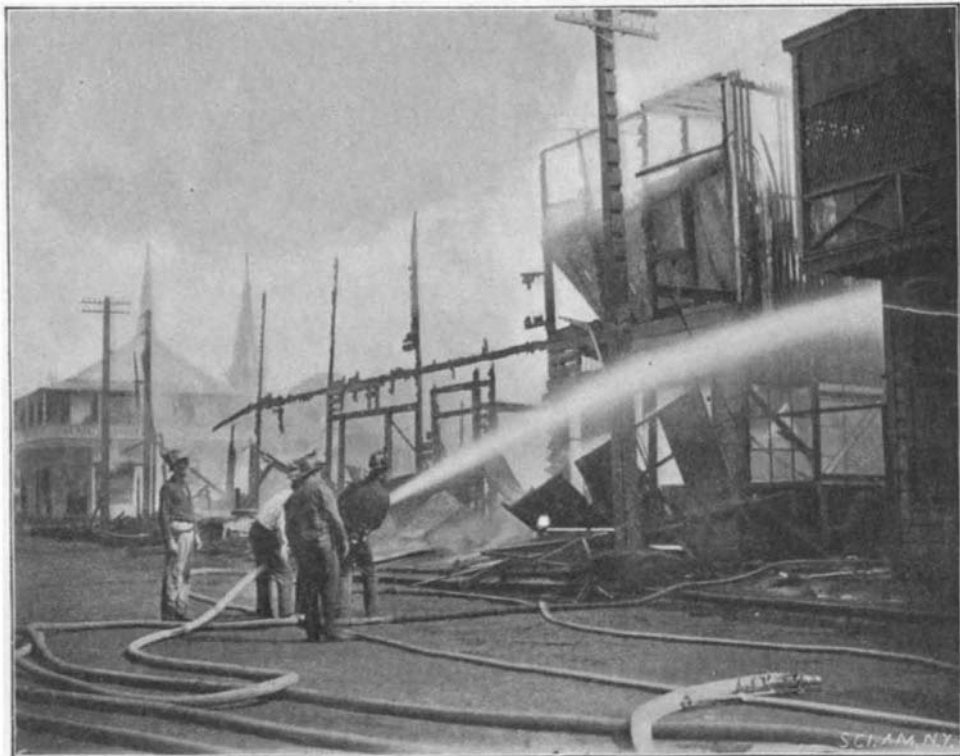
After the great fire the cessation of deaths were very marked. It was not thought that even so heroic a remedy would completely extirpate the plague. The



**HOTEL STREET, SHOWING THE DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF PLAGUE-INFESTED DISTRICT.**

most expected was to get the disease under control, and this seemed to have been the case, for up to February 20 there were only two deaths. On that date, however, three deaths occurred, the first in thirteen days. The plague has, in the meantime, appeared in the island of Maui, and at Hilo. At Kahului a case of the disease has been found, and there is but little chance of the other islands escaping. In but one instance, in Honolulu, has a white person been the victim. A lady of superior position acquired the plague, it was surmised, from rats. All the others were of Asiatic birth or persons who ordinarily associated with them.

In tracing the infection the evidence all points to a



**MARION STREET, HONOLULU, SHOWING THE BURNING OF THE PLAGUE-INFESTED BUILDINGS.**

common source—the consumption of goods imported from the Orient.

THERE is every probability that the Paris Exposition will not be ready for public inauguration on Easter Sunday, April 15. Many of the buildings will be incomplete, and the exhibition will be only during the daytime for some time after the official opening. It is thought by May 1, that the exhibition will be in a fairly satisfactory state.

**Congresses at Paris.**

Mention has already been made of many of the congresses to be held in connection with the forthcoming International Exposition at Paris, says Nature. The following list, prepared by the committee of the Paris International Assembly, the secretaries of which are Prof. Patrick Geddes and Mr. T. R. Marr, shows the date of some of the more important congresses announced in science and education:—Pure Science: Ornithology, June 26-30; meteorology, July 23-28; physics, August 6-11; mathematics, August 6-11; geology, August 16-28; electricity, August 18-25; anthropology and archæology, August 26-25; psychology, August 22-25; ethnography, August 26-September 1; chemistry, September 20-29; botany, October 1-6. Applied Science and Associated Industry: Horticulture, May 25-27; forestry, June 4-7; mines and metallurgy, June 18-23; vine cultivation, June 20-23; insurance, June 25-30; actuaries, June 25-30; agriculture, July 1-7; testing of materials, July 9-16; steam engines and machinery, July 16-18; applied mechanics, July 19-25; architecture and naval construction, July 19-21; photography, July 23-31; applied chemistry, July 23-31; navigation, July 30-August 4; pharmacy, August 8; economic and commercial geography, August 23-31; tramways, September 10-12; fruit culture, September 13-14; railroads, September 20-29. Medicine and Hygiene: Homœopathy, July 18-21; professional medicine, July 23-28; medicine, August 2-9; dermatology, August 2-9; dentistry, August 8-14; hygiene, August 10-17; hypnotism, August 12-15. Education: Modern language teaching, July 24-29; higher education July 30-August 3; teaching of social science, July 30-August 5; primary education, August 2-5; secondary education, August 2-5; technical, industrial education, August 6-11; educational press, August 9-11; bibliography, August 16-18; teaching of drawing, August 29-September 1; popular education, September 10-13; agricultural instruction, September 14-16.

**The Copyright Business of the United States.**

The last report of the Librarian of Congress gives in tabular form the copyright business for the fiscal year of 1898-99. The total fees received for domestic entries was \$36,507.50; foreign entries \$7,953; the fees for certificates amounted to \$12,577.50, and the amount received for the recording of assignments was \$1,218. This together with \$11 for searches made a total of \$58,567, and the total number of entries of titles amounted to \$80,968. In the calendar year of 1898, the total number of deposits received including duplicates, amounted to 115,610. The total communications received during the fiscal year was 67,666, and the total communications sent out including letters written amounted to 98,729. The number of copyright deposits from July 1, 1898, to June 30, 1899, amounted to 59,217, and as two copies of each were received it reached 118,434, of this number 59,217 only 5,834 were of books proper. There were 4,196 articles entered under the term "book" under the copyright law including circulars, leaflets, charts, etc. There were 5,185 newspaper and magazine contributions, 517 dramatic compositions and 9,777 numbers of periodicals, 19,973 musical compositions, 1,478 maps, 3,505 engravings and prints, 1050 chromos and lithographs and 7,695 photographs. The weekly catalogue, authorized by Congress March 3, 1891, has been kept up and the weekly numbers for the fiscal year 1898-99 amount to 3,693 printed pages of octavo size. The registrar of copyrights is Thorvald Solberg, Esq.

**Kansas' Corn Crop.**

We understand that in the ten-year period just closed Kansas has raised 1,441,890,410 bushels of corn, of a value on the farms where raised amounting to \$364,633,448. We have been favored by the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture of Kansas, Mr. F. D. Coburn, with a nicely framed photograph of an enormous ear of Kansas White Dent corn.