researches therein described have already been noticed in this JOURNAL.⁶ The first chapters are devoted to a description of the method of culture which has been employed—that of incubating portions of the new growths themselves, while taking the most careful precautions against exposure to a temperature lower than the body temperature. Two characteristic forms of the cultivated organism are described—a young small golden-coloured form, and a larger which consists of a capsule enclosing bodies morphologically similar to the small forms. It is stated that the latter develop into the capsulated forms. These organisms were grown from sarcomata as well as from carcinomata. Cultures were inoculated into the organs and tissues of animals, especially rabbits, and the results studied histologically.

Schüller states his opinion that by such experiments it is not possible to produce all the complicated structural transformations which go to make up human carcinoma, but compares the changes which he recognises as those of early human carcinoma with those which follow the introduction into animal tissues of the organism isolated, and maintains their identity. These changes consist essentially of local proliferation; the parasites appeared capable of stimulating this proliferation in whatever organ or tissue they were introduced—for example, a carcinoma culture was capable of originating a sarcoma-like growth in connective tissue. The histology of early carcinoma is carefully described, the enlargement, hyperchromatosis, and active mitosis of the nuclei, and the resulting proliferation and emancipation of the cells; it is then shown that similar changes can be seen in the sections of new formations following the introduction of the parasite.

We do not think it is hypercritical to suggest that as good a case might be made out for the granulomatous character of these new formations. It must be remembered that the characteristics of carcinoma have not been exhaustively enumerated when the cellular changes seen under the high powers of the microscope have been described. As far as we are aware no observer has yet been able to produce by inoculation growths in which the remarkable infiltrative character of true carcinomatous growth has not been conspicuous by its absence. Not that there is any obscurity about the infiltration of carcinoma unassociated with the obscurity attached to the problem of carcinomatous growth as a whole; but a proliferation from which this characteristic is absent is a widely different process from one of which it is the chief peculiarity, unless we accept the teaching of Cohnheim that malignancy is altogether a question of the degree of resistance offered by surrounding tissues, and even Cohnheim did not consistently adhere to this view. We repeat our opinion of the value of the researches described in this volume, but their special worth is the remarkable confirmation of the fact that certain parasites with definite characteristics can be demonstrated by suitable methods of culture in sarcomata and carcinoma. Scattered throughout the text are a large number of sketches which well illustrate the various points which the author wishes to bring out.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE. CAPETOWN.

ON May 18th, 'after a week's immunity, 14 fresh cases of plague were reported, 5 of the cases being Europeans. A later telegram, dated May 20th, states that "3 more cases were reported to-day." Plague is evidently subsiding in Capetown, but the disease has not disappeared entirely. Professor W. R. Simpson has, in company with the Government authorities, been making an official tour of inspection of several of the ports and towns in the Colony, and so far no cases of plague have been discovered beyond Capetown; the area of infection therefore remains unaltered. The cold weather is just commencing at the Cape, so it is possible an abatement or complete disappearance of the disease may be hoped for. It would, however, be idle to assume that all danger of recurrence is over.

PORT ELIZABETH.

A telegram, dated May 22nd, states that "4 cases of bubonic plague have been notified at Port Elizabeth to-day; one death has occurred."

INDIA.

A further decrease in the number of deaths from plague in India is reported. For the week ending April 27th the number of deaths from this disease for all India amounted to 4,093, compared with 6,304 for the week ending April 20th.

In Bombay the number of plague deaths during the week ending April

27th amounted to 403, or 56 fewer than during the previous week. The most satisfactory feature of the decline is the continued relaxation of mortality from plague in the more densely-populated districts of the city.

In the Bombay Presidency the plague deaths have fallen in number during the same period from 570 to 468.

In Calcutta the deaths from plague have fallen from 389 during the week ending April 20th, to 215 in the week ending April 27th, and in the Bengal Presidency from 3,258 to 1,707.

There has been a slight increase in the Punjab and Kashmir, the figures having risen from 518 to 547 in the former, and from 25 to 33 in the latter State during the weeks ending April 20th and 27th respectively. In several villages in the Jullunder district plague has reappeared, pneumonic plague playing a considerable part. Disturbances broke out on April 25th at Schzadi, near Sialkot, when the Assistant Commissioner and a party of police were attacked. The outbreak occurred in consequence of the appointment of a native doctor to inspect women suspected of suffering from plague.

MAURITIUS.

For the week ending May 16th one case of plague occurred in Mauritius.

AUSTRALIA.

In Perth and Brisbane a few cases of plague continue to occur, but at neither place has the outbreak been serious.

GRANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

THE Council of the British Medical Association desires to remind members of the profession engaged in researches for the advancement of medicine and the allied sciences that it is prepared to receive applications for grants in aid of such research. Applications for sums to be granted at the next annual meeting must include details of the precise character and objects of the research which is proposed, and must be made on or before June 15th in writing addressed to the General Secretary, at the office of the Association, 429, Strand, W.C.

Reports of work done by the assistance of the Association grants belong to the Association.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Council of the British Medical Association is prepared to receive applications for one Research Scholarship which is vacant, of the value of £150 per annum, tenable for one year, and subject to renewal by the Council for another year.

THE "ERNEST HART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP."

The Council is also prepared to receive applications for a Scholarship of £200 for the study of some subject in the department of State Medicine in memory of the late Mr. Ernest Hart.

Applications must be sent in writing on or before June 15th, stating the particulars of the intended research, qualification, and work done.

Forms of application for the Scholarships can be obtained from the General Secretary.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

429, Strand, May 14th, 1901.

THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Defence Union will take place at the offices of the Union on Friday next, May 31st. The annual report of the Council upon the work of the Union during 1900, and the appended report of the solicitor for the same year, which will be presented to this meeting, contains a great many matters of interest, to the majority of which we can make no more than a passing reference in the present notice.

The membership increased during the year, and the number of members upon the register reached a total of 4,604.

The Council reports that the number of cases brought before it, and either dealt with by that body or handed to the solicitor, has increased, but that the actual number of cases taken into court has decreased. We are told that the long-continued rule of the Union has been "Never compromise an action," and the solicitor, in his report, gives many striking instances of the wisdom of this principle. Legal proceedings have been taken against a member of the Union, defended by it, and have been carried on up to, or almost up to, the moment of trial, and have then been dropped; the motive suggested for maintaining the action is the hope that a compromise might at some point of the weary period of waiting be accepted by the Union for its member. The principle has the further advantage that solicitors who undertake cases involving charges of malpraxis and negligence

⁶ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, November 24th, 1900, p. 1518.