

particle of expectoration light in the doctor's eye, where the microbes can thrive in moisture. If he has the smallest scratch in the conjunctiva caused, for example, by a minute grain of sand, the microbes enter and do their work.

Rats contribute greatly to the spread of plague, and this was also true of rats in Nasretabad. They die of plague themselves, and their parasites spread infection. When a rat dies his parasites leave the carcass as soon as it is cold and watch for an opportunity of settling on some other creature near, perhaps a man. I heard from Captain Kelly that dogs are supposed to be immune, but their vermin, dog ticks, may transfer the infection to men, for the microbes live in these parasites. During my sojourn in Nasretabad my dogs were tied up outside the men's abode, but the dogs of the Consulate went out and in as they pleased, especially at meal-times.

Captain Kelly had arranged his laboratory in a fine large Indian officer's tent, set up on a common before the Consulate. A microscope stood on a table, and here I had an opportunity of making acquaintance with the horrible microbes which were exhibited in various preparations. They were dead and stained, and were wonderfully conspicuous. They were really not much to look at—a quantity of small insignificant black specks. And yet these specks are more dangerous to man than the most perfect destructive engines of the modern art of war, and more devastating than any campaign. I looked at them through the microscope with a certain respect. They were magnified twelve hundred times, and yet were exceedingly minute.

When I expressed a wish to see, not indeed the microbes themselves in their activity, but at least their sphere of work, a dying man, and to observe the symptoms when an unfortunate sinner succumbs in the unequal strife, Captain Kelly peremptorily refused, not so much because of the danger that threatened me from suspicious malevolence, but rather because of the direct danger of infection. I proposed to accompany the doctor when he next visited a patient in a far-advanced stage of the disease and wait till death supervened. But he would not consent, the risk was too great.