THE PLAGUE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

In the spring of 1900 the city bacteriologist of San Francisco and the quarantine surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service, stationed at Angel Island, San Francisco Bay, made the discovery that the death of a Chinaman had been caused by plague. In accordance with the provisions of the laws governing these two officers in their respective functions, the case was officially reported. Other cases soon developed, and the occurrence of these cases was likewise officially reported. The reports of the quarantine surgeon were published in the Public Health Reports of the Marine Hospital Service in accordance with law and with international agreements. The truth of the reports was at once questioned by the larger portion of the local public press, the objections being partly of a political and partly of a commercial character. A certain portion of the medical profession also opposed the recognition of the diagnosis, and the opinions of these physicians constituted the basis of the denial by the press of the truth of the existence of plague.

The diagnosis had been established in accordance with the conceptions of plague as determined by the scientific study of the