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The following telegram is just printed in the Times of India, dated Simla, April 15:

The Punjab is in the midst of a terrible plague epidemic. It had over 23,000 deaths last week, being an increase of 4,000 upon the total of the preceding seven days. The worst affected districts are Shahpur, Sialkot, Ludhiana, Umballa, and Lahore. The United Provinces come next to the Punjab, with 7,000 deaths. Last week there was a reduction of 1,000 as compared with the preceding seven days.

Report from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Decline in plague.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports April 14, as follows:

During the week ended April 9, 1904, bill of health was issued to steamship *Wilde Wildenfels* bound for Boston with a total crew of 64, of which 38 were Lascars, whose effects were disinfected. There were two rejections. The cargo compartments of the ship were fumigated for the destruction of vermin, and rat guards were kept on the wharf lines while she was at dock.

During the week ended April 9, 1904, there was a reduction, both in the cases and deaths from plague, of 7. This is thought to be the beginning in the decline which regularly occurs about this time. The maximum number of deaths is nearly 300 below that of last year. The efforts of the local health officers to destroy the infected dwellings and clear up the entire surrounding neighborhood are probably responsible for the reduction. All the infectious diseases are running lower than the average this year, and as the plague centers were also favorable to smallpox, cholera, and such diseases, it seems fair to give the work some credit. I am informed that the reduction of the cases of plague is most noticeable in the worst centers and that in other places they have slightly increased, but the reduction at the worst points is considered indicative of a general decline.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, April 16, as follows: During the week ended April 16, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Apr. 11	Citta di Genoa	New York	1,380	120	1,530	17
13	Sicilia	New Orleans				
13	Lombardia	New York	841	55	1,155	20
14	Nekar	do	2,476	320	3,242	44
14	Germania	do	1,302	230	1,535	16
14	Republic	Boston	1,496	200	1,720	22

PALERMO.

Apr. 10	Napolitan Prince	New York	342	100	500	42
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