

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 31.

Notice is hereby given that Mr. JOHN PHILLIP HENS, of Manila in the Philippine Islands, Merchant, has complied with the requirements of Ordinances 16 of 1873, and 8 of 1886, for the registration in this Colony of his Marks as applied to Cigars and Tobacco; and that the same have been duly registered.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 23rd January, 1888.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 32.

The following Minutes of the Sanitary Board are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1888.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sanitary Board at a meeting held in the Board Room on Tuesday, the 10th of January, 1888.

PRESENT:

The Honourable the Surveyor General, (Chairman).
The Registrar General.
Dr. PATRICK MANSON, LL.D.
Dr. JAMES CANTLIE.
Mr. WM. EDWARD CROW, (Secretary).

ABSENT:

The Colonial Surgeon.
The Honourable A. P. McEWEN.
Major T. C. DEMPSTER.
Dr. HO KAI.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st of December, 1887, were read and confirmed.

1. The Secretary reported the arrival of Mr. F. A. COOPER, the Sanitary Surveyor.
2. The report of the Sub-Committee appointed on the 21st of December, 1887, to consider the steps that should be taken for dealing with the Small-pox epidemic was read and adopted.

After a discussion the Board adjourned.

J. M. PRICE,
Chairman.

Read and confirmed, this 24th day of January, 1888.

WM. EDWARD CROW,
Secretary.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 33.

The following extract from the Minutes of the Sanitary Board, is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1888.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sanitary Board at a meeting held in the Board Room on Tuesday, the 24th of January, 1888.

Read a Report from the Acting Sanitary Inspector on the Small-pox epidemic, and on the steps that had been taken by the Board and its officers to meet the outbreak. Resolved:—That the Secretary be directed to forward the Report to the Colonial Secretary with a view to requesting His Excellency the Governor's approval to its publication for general information.

True Extract,

WM. EDWARD CROW,
Secretary.

SANITARY BOARD ROOM,
24th January, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government the following report on the steps that have been taken to meet the epidemic of small-pox now raging in the Colony and to furnish in the form of an appendix a few tables showing the rise, decline, and subsequent growth of the disease from the beginning of last year.

1.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

In the early part of December when it became evident to the Civil Medical Staff that the disease was taking an epidemic form and that the permanent hospital with 8 beds at West Point would not suffice for the number of cases that would probably be sent there for treatment, a matshed with provision for 16 patients was erected within the Small-pox Hospital grounds. In a few days this building was full, and as the ground allotted for small-pox wards would not allow the addition of any more wings, a part of the Civil Hospital recreation ground was enclosed to admit of the erection of two matsheds with appliances for 50 and 25 patients respectively. The Government Small-pox Hospital therefore provides for the reception of 99 patients. On Saturday, the 21st instant, there were 52 beds available for fresh cases.

In addition to this, the Government have sanctioned the conversion of the top storey of the Lunatic Asylum into wards for the treatment of European female patients. Of the 5 beds so provided 3 were unoccupied on the 21st instant.

As a reserve, the Lazaretto at Stone Cutters' Island, the use of which had been temporarily lent to the Military Authorities, has been vacated by the soldiers, and is now available for use at any moment if required.

The Tung-wa Hospital authorities state in reply to an enquiry by the Registrar General that 76 patients can, if necessary, be treated in their small-pox wards in Taipingshan. On the 21st there were 26 vacancies in this institution.

The total Hospital accommodation, exclusive of the Lazaretto, therefore, provides for 180 cases or one bed for about every 1000 of the estimated Civil Chinese and European population of the whole Colony.

2.—COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION.

On the 13th December the draft of a proposed Bye-law to be made under section 12 of Ordinance 7 of 1883, for making the notification of small-pox compulsory, was drawn up and circulated for the favourable consideration of the Members of the Sanitary Board. This regulation, which met with the unanimous approval of the Board, received the sanction of the Governor in Council on the 17th ultimo, and was forthwith published in English and Chinese in the newspapers and further promulgated by the distribution of posters and handbills throughout the Colony.

The issuing of this new Bye-law has enabled the staff to obtain precise information as to the course of the outbreak and to take steps for the disinfection of premises that could not possibly have been done in the absence of compulsory notification.

3.—VACCINATION.

The Sub-Committee of the Sanitary Board appointed on the 21st of December to consider this matter and consisting of the following:—

The Colonial Surgeon,
DR. PATRICK MANSON,
DR. JAMES CANTLIE,
The Registrar General,
and the undersigned,

met the next day at the Alice Memorial Hospital and resolved:—

1. That vaccination stations be established at the Government Civil Hospital, the Alice Memorial Hospital, and another in the Wan-tsai district, and that the Tungwa Hospital authorities be invited to conduct vaccinations daily.
2. That a sum of money be set aside to be used, if necessary, for rewarding parents who might be willing to bring their children for the removal of vaccine after a successful operation.
3. That the community be informed by Proclamation in English, Portuguese, and Chinese of the places and hours of vaccination as soon as arrangements could be completed for securing the necessary supplies of vaccine lymph.

In order to give effect to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, letters were despatched to the Colonial Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Alice Memorial Hospital, and to the Committee of the Tung-wa Hospital, and after receiving favourable replies in support of the Sub-Committee's recommendations, a sum of \$50. was lodged at both the Civil and Alice Memorial Hospitals to be used for inducing parents to bring their children for furnishing a supply of lymph; and notifications in

English, Portuguese, and Chinese were freely circulated informing the public that vaccinations would be conducted daily at these institutions between the hours of 2 and 3 P.M.—Saturdays and Sundays excepted.

The Tung-wa Committee informed the Registrar General that their Doctors considered it unnecessary to vaccinate every day, but that they would be happy to co-operate with the Board and vaccinate as often as possible. A notice in Chinese was at once issued by the Committee informing the public of the vaccination days in Victoria, Aberdeen, Yaumati, and Shaukiwán, and calling on persons of *all* ages to attend without delay. Parents were especially enjoined to bring their children. The Tung-wa Committee are themselves paying the gratuities offered to mothers for bringing their babies for furnishing the supply of lymph.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations already performed:—

Government Civil Hospital,	180
Alice Memorial Hospital,	206
Tung-wa Hospital:—	
October 23rd, 1887, to January 21st, 1888,	1,055
Villages,—by Tung-wa Doctors:—	
From October 23rd, 1887, to January 9th, 1888,	225
Total,.....	<u>1,666</u>

I have no information as to the percentage of successful vaccinations to operations performed.

The scarcity of tube lymph has rendered it difficult for the various vaccinators to conduct as large a number of operations as would seem desirable, and the offering of a reward of \$1 to parents, for allowing the withdrawal of lymph from their children after a successful operation, has only met with a limited degree of success.

The Board is indebted to the Manager of the Hongkong Dispensary for much information concerning the supplies of lymph expected to arrive during the next few months, and, for placing at its disposal on very liberal terms, 100 tubes of Japanese calf lymph which has been chiefly employed by the Colonial Surgeon and the Superintendent of the Civil Hospital as a source of supply for the vaccination of the Police and the prisoners in Victoria Gaol.

4.—LYMPH SUPPLY AND CULTIVATION.

Messrs. A. S. WATSON and Co. state in reply to an enquiry by the Board that, 500 tubes of infant lymph or part thereof will probably arrive by the next English Mail, and that 12 tubes will arrive by every succeeding Contract Mail for one month, after which 100 tubes will arrive by every English and French Mail.

In addition to this, the Government are obtaining from Australia through the assistance of Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE 30 tubes of calf lymph which will probably arrive by the S.S. *Chingtu* within a fortnight. A further supply is also expected by every "China Navigation" steamer leaving Australia within two months after the departure of the *Chingtu*.

An experiment is being made by the Inspector of Live Stock to cultivate calf lymph. Two calves have been obtained and lodged in the observation shed at Kennedy Town, but Mr. Ladds, who has used for the operations on these animals specimens representing two shipments of Japanese calf lymph, is as yet unable to speak positively as to the success or failure of the operations. If the calf lymph fails, it will be necessary to inoculate the animal with infant lymph.

5.—DISINFECTION OF WASH-CLOTHES.

The native washermen were summoned by the Registrar General more than a week ago, and examined as to the practicability of this measure and all expressed their readiness to disinfect the various clothes sent to their establishment to be washed. Accordingly, a 2 gallon jar of Jeyes' Fluid with instructions in Chinese as to its use as a disinfectant of laundry-linen has been issued to each washermen to the number of more than 60. The Registrar General has made arrangements for the regular visitation by the District watchmen of the wash-houses to see that the instructions of the Board are carried out. To prevent damage being done to articles of a delicately coloured nature, which can, with no great difficulty be washed by household servants, a notification has been issued warning the public to exercise judgment in sending such fabrics to the laundries.

6.—DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, &c.

As a general rule whenever a case of small-pox has occurred in a house the room vacated by the patient is *at once* fumigated by burning sulphur therein. In some cases this fumigation is not done until many days have elapsed since the disease first made its appearance. This is due to the fact that in a large percentage of cases, the patient remains under treatment in the house and consequently no disinfection of the tenement is possible until the patient has recovered. In some Chinese cases the registration of the death is the only notification, consequently a delay of several days may occur between the date of the removal of the body and the day of fumigation.

The following is the procedure when a notification of small-pox reaches this office from a Police Station :--

- (a.) If the patient expresses a desire to go into hospital, or if a certificate from a Medical practitioner is received to the effect that the patient is improperly lodged, an officer of the Board calls at the house and tenders his services for expediting the patient's removal. If the patient objects to go into hospital then the Magistrate is applied to for an order under section 5 of Ordinance 7 of 1883. The fumigation and limewashing of the room is then effected as speedily as possible: generally within 24 hours and sometimes within an hour or two of the patient's removal. The Nuisance Inspectors who are entrusted with this duty invariably convey the patient in a regulation small-pox ambulance unless the person prefers to walk, and they have all received strict orders from me to assist the Police in preventing the removal of infected persons in licensed jinrickshas and chairs.
- (b.) In cases where simply a notification of the disease reaches this Department, an Inspector calls at the house and enquires how many persons are affected, their age and nationality, and also the number of families residing in the tenement. The Inspectors are enjoined to supply whatever disinfectants may be required, and to impress on those in charge of the sick the necessity of maintaining the strictest isolation.

A Notification in English, Portuguese, and Chinese requesting the public to inform the undersigned of the earliest day on which a room vacated by a patient can be fumigated and limewashed, has also been issued.

Mention might here be made of the fact that the bedding and clothing used by patients in the Government Small-pox Hospital is effectively disinfected and washed within the precincts of the Hospital and that such bedding and clothing when unfit for further use is burnt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WM. EDWARD CROW,
*Acting Sanitary Inspector,
and Honorary Secretary
to Sanitary Board.*

APPENDIX.

In 1887, no notification of Small-pox was made at the Sanitary Office before the 4th of February, and the rise, decline, and subsequent extension of the disease until it assumed an epidemic form in December, will be best seen on perusing the following table.

1887.

Month.	Cases reported at Sanitary Office.	Deaths Registered.	Rain-fall in inches.
January, .....	.....	.....	9.00
February,	7	5	1.54
March,	23	14	2.73
April,	40	32	5.64
May,	41	31	2.04
June,	30	28	5.47
July,	12	11	12.07
August,	4	5	13.19
September,	2	1	11.08
October,	5	2	1.86
November,	37	12	0.79
December,	204	106	0.85
Total,	405	247	66.26

The next table shows the Hospital admissions and Rain-fall for each month of the last three years:—

Month.	1885.				1886.				1887.			
	Tung-wa.	Civil.	Total.	Rain-fall.	Tung-wa.	Civil.	Total.	Rain-fall.	Tung-wa.	Civil.	Total.	Rain-fall.
January,	3	5	8	0.87	1	5	6	2.01	0	1	1	9.00
February,	7	4	11	2.70	7	1	8	1.53	6	7	13	1.54
March,	14	3	17	2.47	17	1	18	2.59	22	1	23	2.73
April,	11	...	11	14.89	10	3	13	5.68	35	4	39	5.64
May,	4	...	4	4.86	9	...	9	3.56	33	3	36	2.04
June, .....	...	...	...	31.36	3	...	3	8.87	26	4	30	5.47
July, .....	...	...	...	13.64	1	...	1	28.32	12	...	12	12.07
August, .....	...	...	...	28.11	4	...	4	8.95	4	...	4	13.19
September, .....	...	...	...	5.50	2	...	2	2.99	4	...	4	11.08
October, .....	...	...	...	2.51	...	...	...	2.81	2	1	3	1.86
November, .....	...	1	1	0.76	...	...	...	0.05	28	10	38	0.79
December, .....	...	1	1	1.25	...	1	1	1.77	143	28	171	0.85
Annual Total,	39	14	53	108.92	54	11	65	69.13	315	59	374	66.26

From the observations made at Stone Cutters' Island the Rain-fall in 1885 was 15.36 in *excess* of the mean of 8 years, and in 1886 it was 22.77 *below* the mean of 9 years' Rain-fall. In 1887 it was 19.23 inches *below* the mean of *ten* years' Rain-fall.

The third table gives for the first three weeks of January, 1888, the number of Hospital Admissions, Cases notified, and Deaths registered.

January, 1888.

No. of week.	Hospital Admissions.			Cases notified.	Deaths registered.
	Tung-wa.	Government Civil.	Total.		
1st,	58	10	68	99	78
2nd,	57	12	69	110	68
3rd,	79	27	106	152	81
Total,	194	49	243	361	227

Of the 361 notified during the three weeks ending January 21st, 51 were of Portuguese and 51 of other European nationalities. There were no deaths from Small-pox registered during corresponding periods of 1887.

WM. EDWARD CROW.

January 24th, 1888.