

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 505.

The following is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 14th September, 1901.

SANITARY BOARD OFFICES,
HONGKONG, August 22nd, 1901.

To the President of the

SANITARY BOARD.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that, during the past six weeks, I have, with the assistance of Inspector REIDIE, conducted a series of experiments with the Virus Contagieux of Professor DANYSZ with the following results:—

Experiment No. 1.

On July 6th, two healthy rats *A* and *B* were fed with the virus, prepared in the manner indicated in the instructions issued by Prof. DANYSZ—five tubes being used in a quart of salt water.

On the 8th July, one healthy rat *C* was put in the same cage with the above two, and on the 10th July, another healthy rat *D* was also put into this cage.

A died on the 18th July,—twelve days after being fed on the virus—and its body was partly eaten by *B*, *C*, and *D*, and also by another healthy rat *E*, put into the same cage after the death of *A*.

C died on the 25th July,—seven days after eating of the body of *A*—and its body was partly eaten by two healthy rats *F* and *G*.

D died on the 27th July,—nine days after eating of the body of *A*—and its body was partly eaten by *E*.

B died on the 31st July,—twenty-five days after eating of the virus and thirteen days after eating of the dead body of *A*—and a portion of its body was eaten by three healthy rats *H*, *J*, and *K*.

F died on August 19th,—twenty-five days after eating of the dead body of *C*—and two healthy rats in the same cage did not touch the dead body.

Experiment No. 2.

On the 17th July, two healthy rats *A* and *B* were fed with the virus—ten tubes being used in half a pint of salt water:—

A died on the 21st July,—four days after being fed on the virus—and three healthy rats which had been put in the same cage would not touch the body.

B died on July 27th,—ten days after being fed on the virus—and its body was partly eaten by three healthy rats *C*, *D*, and *E*.

C and *D* died on the 31st July,—four days after eating of the body of *B*. The body of *C* was partly eaten by three healthy rats, *F*, *G*, and *H*; the body of *D* was not eaten.

F and *G* died on August 2nd,—two days after they had eaten the body of *C*—and the dead body of *F* was partly eaten by two healthy rats, *I* and *J*, while the body of *G* was similarly eaten by two healthy rats *K* and *L*.

I died on August 6th,—four days after eating the body of *F*—and a healthy rat in the same cage with it would not touch the body.

E died on August 8th,—twelve days after eating of the body of *B*—and its body was partly eaten by a healthy rat *M*, which had been placed in the same cage.

H died on August 11th,—eleven days after eating of the body of *C*—and a healthy rat in the same cage did not touch the dead body.

J died on August 13th,—eleven days after eating of the body of *F*—and two healthy rats in the same cage did not touch the dead body.

K died on August 14th,—twelve days after eating of the body of *G*—and two healthy rats in the same cage did not touch the dead body.

L died on August 15th,—thirteen days after eating of the body of *G*—and its dead body was partly eaten by two healthy rats *N* and *O*.

M died on August 21st,—thirteen days after eating of the body of *E*—and two healthy rats in the same cage did not touch the dead body.

As a counter experiment several rats have been kept in the same place and under precisely similar conditions, with a view to ascertaining whether they would survive in captivity, if not infected with the virus, and these have remained in good health with the exception of one, that died as the result of an accident. Thus on June 25th, twelve rats were procured; ten of these were used in connection with experiment No. 1 and six of the ten have died, presumably as the result of the infection. Of the remaining two, one died as the result of an accident incurred while transferring the animal from one cage to another, and the other is still alive.

Between June 29th and July 1st, nineteen rats were procured, of which fifteen were used in connection with experiment No. II; thirteen of these have died after infection, while the four which were not used for the experiment are still alive.

It will thus be seen that the the period which may elapse between the date of infection and death varies from two days to twelve or thirteen days, and that not infrequently healthy rats will not touch the dead bodies of the infected ones.

The proposal is to feed healthy rats on the virus and then to let them loose again, in the hope that they will die of the infection and that then other rats will feed on their dead bodies and will thus become themselves infected.

The objections to the proposal are that the rats may die in private dwellings and thus create a nuisance, and in any case no check can be kept upon the experiment after once the rats are set free.

I am not therefore inclined to recommend the adoption of the proposal by the Government on any extensive scale but if any owners of godown property desire to experiment in the matter, I have now a sufficient number of infected rats to be able to supply them with a few for the purpose.

It is very doubtful if rats can infect human beings in any way, so long as they are kept out of the dwelling-houses, and I think that the efforts both of the Sanitary Board and of the householders would be best directed to securing this end by keeping all drains and drain-fittings in perfect order, maintaining an impervious covering to all earth surfaces within the dwellings, by the removal (as far as may be possible) of all ceilings, wooden skirting-boards and lath-and-plaster partitions, and by avoiding the accumulation of garbage within or in the neighbourhood of the dwellings.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 506.

The following Notice is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 13th September, 1901.

NOTICE.

A Special Meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace will be held at the Magistracy, at 2.30 p.m., on Tuesday, the 24th day of September, A.D. 1901, for the purpose of considering an application from one JOHN LACOCK for a Publican's Licence to sell and retail intoxicating Liquors on the premises situated at Whitfield, Shaukiwan Road, under the sign of "The Bay View Hotel."

F. A. HAZELAND,
Police Magistrate.

Magistracy, Hongkong, 12th September, 1901.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 507.

The following Statement of Quarantine Restrictions is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 14th September, 1901.

STATEMENT OF QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1901.

Disease.	Port or Place.	Restrictions in Force.	Authority.
Plague.	Formosa.	Medical examination; quarantine at the discretion of the Health Officer.	Proclamation No. 1 dated February 11th, 1901.
Plague.	Manila.	Do. do. do.	Proclamation No. 2 dated April 23rd, 1901.