

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 385.

The following Notice is published.

By Command,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th June, 1902.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Murray Pier is closed to the Public.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY,
Ret. Com., R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

Harbour Department, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1902.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 386.

The following Alphabetical Reference Table to the Recommendations contained in Professor SIMPSON'S First and Second Memoranda, was laid before the Legislative Council on the 23rd instant, and is published.

By Command,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th June, 1902.

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PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

FIRST MEMORANDUM.

*Paragraphs in
Report.*

Rats.

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| <p>4.—(a.) Appointment of 2 or 3 trained Medical Officers to bacteriologically examine rats daily.</p> | <p>Four Japanese doctors are at present employed on this duty having been engaged for a period of six months.</p> |
| <p>(b.) Rat-catchers to be increased in number.</p> | <p>The number of rat-catchers in the employ of the Board at the end of last year was twenty-two. The Board has now one hundred and thirty-two rat-catchers and rat-poisoners.</p> |
| <p>(c.) Concentration of efforts for destruction of rats in districts where rats are found to be plague-infected.</p> | <p>This is specially arranged for, rat-poisoners being sent to these districts daily.</p> |
| <p>(d.) Tendency of rats to migrate to be remembered and watch kept.</p> | <p>No marked migration of rats has been observed, except during the house to house cleansing when they left the disinfected houses.</p> |
| <p>5. General destruction of rats and mice to proceed as before.</p> | <p>This has been prosecuted vigorously.</p> |
| <p>6 & 7. Methods of destruction suggested.</p> | <p>Rat poison and rat traps have been freely used; carbolic acid is poured into rat runs. The question of the treatment of ships was referred to the Chamber of Commerce who were not in favour of taking active steps in this direction.</p> |
| <p>8. Danysz virus to be prepared by Dr. HUNTER and systematically distributed by Sanitary Board.</p> | <p>No Danysz virus has been prepared owing to the loss at sea of all Dr. HUNTER'S apparatus, duplicates of which have not yet arrived in the Colony.</p> |
| <p>9. Prevention of rats landing from ships.</p> | <p>A special Ordinance has been passed to secure this, and it is administered by the Police.</p> |

Human Plague.

10. The measures to be adopted are:—

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| <p>(a.) Early discovery of cases.</p> | <p>There are seven Chinese senior students of medicine engaged in searching for Plague cases, each student being accompanied by a British Sapper and by a Chinese Constable.</p> |
| <p>(b.) Tracing connection with former cases.</p> | <p>This has been done, although in many cases no reliable history is obtainable.</p> |
| <p>(c.) Removal of the sick.</p> | <p>This is carried out by officers of the Board.</p> |
| <p>(d.) Cleansing and disinfection.</p> | <p>Performed by a special brigade of Sanitary Board Officers.</p> |

- (e.) Inoculation in plague-infected localities. The rat-catching and disinfecting staff of the Board have been inoculated (including the Medical Officer of Health) but the general community have not taken the matter up although it is offered free to all.
- These duties are apart from the ordinary duties of the Sanitary Staff and render necessary special arrangements for their performance. The pick of the permanent officers have been detailed for plague duty but it is hoped that next year there will be a special plague staff independent of the staff for general sanitary duties.
- 11.—(a.) Division of town into districts and appointment of a Medical man and a Sanitary Inspector to each district. Endeavours were made to obtain medical men from India, but as this failed, Japanese doctors were obtained—six being posted to the twelve health districts, but as they had no knowledge of English their services were found to be ineffective and four were sent back, two (of these six) being retained for bacteriological work in connection with the examination of rats.
- (b.) Their duty to be discovery of cases, house to house visitation, and supervision of preventive measures.
- (c.) Zone of houses surrounding an infected house to be inspected by Medical man daily. This is done by the Chinese students of medicine mentioned at 10 (a.)
- (d.) History of cases to be traced out and recorded. This is done.
- (e.) Whereabouts of friends who have had communication with the sick to be ascertained. This is also done as far as possible.
- (f.) Rats in zone of houses to be destroyed. This is done by the rat-poisoners.
12. Inoculation with Haffkine's prophylactic to be encouraged. The Chinese are very averse to this at present.
13. Medical inspection of incoming passengers from Canton and Macao to be carried out. This is being done as regards Macao.
14. **Establishment of Private Hospital** with Chinese Doctors and Nurses may be allowed under proper safeguards. Several have been sanctioned.

SECOND MEMORANDUM.

*Paragraphs
of Report.*

5. Building Ordinance requires complete revision. These recommendations are being embodied in a Bill which has been prepared by Mr. CHADWICK and Prof. SIMPSON and which will be presented to Government shortly.

6.—(a.) Existing Ordinances do not ensure sanitary dwellings.

(b.) Minimum of superficial area and cubic space permitted for each person should be raised.

(c.) Cubicles without windows not to be permitted.

7.—(a.) Sewers and small storm-water channels not to be dependent on ordinary water-supply for flushing.

(b.) Water after filtration at Albany beds to be received in covered reservoirs.

8. Efforts to be concentrated on plague prevention while sanitary improvements in the town itself are being gradually effected.

9. Weekly bulletins as to the existence of plague to be obtained from Consuls in South China, Medical Missionaries, and the Maritime Customs.

Boarding of vessels from plague infected districts to be carried out.

Special precautions from January to April in each year desirable.

10.—(a.) Medical inspection of vessels and junks from Chinese Coast during first four months of year to be carried out by Boarding Officers and Medical Officers of the Port.

(b.) Canton steamers to carry from January to June their own Medical Officers.

12. Sick or suspected persons to be dealt with only.

Nothing done. The subject is dealt with more fully in Mr. CHADWICK'S Reports. Much work will be involved in carrying out any such proposal.

It has been pointed out that the covering cannot be done until the leaks which exist have been made good. This will probably involve practical reconstruction of the reservoir.

This is being done.

This has not yet been arranged. Letters asking for weekly bulletins written to Consuls at ports in South China and to London Missionary Society in Hongkong.

This is done in regard only to vessels from ports declared infected by the Governor-in-Council, at present.

Not yet arranged. Question of medical inspection of Canton steamers discussed by Sanitary Board (*vide* "Daily Press" of 29-1-1902). Board decided to let question of inspecting Canton steamers stand over.

Not yet arranged.

Do.

Rats.

13. Systematic destruction of rats on steamers and junks from plague infected ports on the Chinese Coast and which go alongside wharves or into dock, to be undertaken.

Not yet arranged. See (6) and (7). Question referred to Chamber of Commerce who are opposed to the proposal. Sanitary Board has not therefore pressed the matter.

Emigrants.

16. Registration and control of emigrant houses: daily inspection: regular medical inspection of emigrants in emigration houses: compulsory notification of all sickness to be enforced.

Everything in train for registration: notice published, but no licences yet applied for.

The Ordinance (37 of 1901) does not give any power of entry into the houses. The last two points would naturally be included in the Bye-laws, which are still under consideration. (4-6-02).

18. Appointment of medical men for districts. (See paragraph 11 of Memorandum I.) The arrangement as regards the Japanese doctors did not succeed. It is suggested (by the Medical Officer of Health) that qualified students of the Hongkong College of Medicine would answer the purpose admirably.
20. Dumping of bodies of persons dead of plague must be stopped. Not yet stopped.
21. The inhabitants to be made responsible. Town to be divided into districts and sub-districts and streets. Decided in Executive Council on the 3rd instant that this proposal be not adopted but that a reward of \$10 be offered instead for each authentic living case of plague reported by a Chinese as having occurred in any particular house occupied wholly or in part by Chinese.
- 22.—(a.) Handbills explaining causes and symptoms of plague and measures to be taken on its appearance to be distributed. Several thousands have been distributed.
- (b.) Conference of Chinese Doctors to be held and measures for plague prevention explained to them. Not yet done: if done, little good beyond the mere publication could be hoped for.
- (c.) Contractors of labour and heads of guilds to be informed of Government's wishes.
23. Bacteriological examination of rats to be carried out daily. (See paragraph 4 of Memorandum I.) Every rat found or caught in the Colony is now bacteriologically examined.
24. Blocks of buildings in which plague infected rats have been found or human plague has occurred may be temporarily closed before plague becomes epidemic. This has been done. A list of the houses so closed is attached to C. S. O. 1193/02.
26. Filling up of rat-runs with glass and cement to be carried out. This is carried out by the officers of the Board in plague infected houses and by the owners on the written order of the Board in all other houses which are found to contain rat-runs.
27. Isolation of contacts may be carried out before plague becomes epidemic. Vacating of the whole house must be adopted and inmates allowed after disinfection to go to certain districts. Exception to be made in pneumonic plague cases. Several large blocks of new buildings have been rented by the Government for the accommodation of persons displaced from plague infected houses and such premises are visited daily by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and the persons inspected. These people are not kept as prisoners but allowed to proceed to work. Shop-keepers have been given ground-floors so that they can continue their business.
28. Procedure to be adopted on—
 (a.) Occurrence of a case of plague in a house. This has been carried out except that there has been no detention and isolation of contacts other than that described in 27 (above), and that the inspector is not a medical man.
 (b.) When plague infected rats are discovered.
- 29.—(a.) Special plague staff to be established under the Medical Officer of Health. Not yet arranged for.
- (b.) Medical Officer of Health to be relieved of clerical work. A European clerk has recently been appointed who attends to a good deal of this class of work now.

- (c.) All communications regarding the health of the Colony or outbreaks of disease in other countries to be sent direct to the Medical Officer of Health. Not yet arranged.
30. Duties of special plague Department of Sanitary Department summarised.
31. Larger sanitary questions and measures of improvement require continuous and detailed attention. Not yet arranged. New Building Ordinance will deal with some of the points mentioned.
- Construction of new buildings at the present time criticised. This will be dealt with by the new Bill.
32. Public Health and Building Ordinances should give the necessary powers to deal with such questions and measures. Do.
33. Present type of Chinese houses insanitary. Do.
34. Suggestions for fresh provisions in future Ordinances or in conditions of sales of land. Do.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 387.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to make the following appointment in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps:—

WILLIAM ARTHUR CRAKE to be Supernumerary Lieutenant in the "E" Engineer Company.

By Command,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1902.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 388.

Revised Maps of Victoria, on a scale of 160 feet to an inch, in 11 sheets, have been received from England.

These Maps can be obtained on application at the office of the Director of Public Works, and after payment into the Treasury of the sum of \$25.

Government Notification No. 379 of the 20th June, 1902, is hereby cancelled.

By Command,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th June, 1902.