

A NOTE ON SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.*

By VICTOR G. HEISER, Director of Health,
Philippine Islands.

DURING December, 1910, a person afflicted with smallpox was transferred from San José, Antique, to the island of Caluya, which is a small isolated island south of Mindora, the inhabitants of which have heretofore not been systematically vaccinated. An old woman took some of the contents of a pustule from the smallpox case shortly before death and commenced to vaccinate a number of the inhabitants. Smallpox in epidemic form soon resulted. The population of Caluya and near-by islands is about 2,000. Approximately 1,000 cases of smallpox occurred before the facts became known to the outer world. Vaccinators, properly equipped, were immediately sent to Caluya. They vaccinated 800 of the remaining thousand persons. Of these not one contracted smallpox who had a successful vaccination that was two weeks old. The chief quarantine officer visited 10 families, ranging from 5 to 8 in number. In 6 of these every member was stricken with smallpox. A physical examination showed that they had no vaccination marks. In two other families 6 persons were stricken and 2 escaped infection. A physical examination showed that of the 6 stricken members not one had been vaccinated. The 2 remaining members had successful vaccination marks. Upon inquiry it was learned that they had visited Calapan a year previously and were vaccinated while there. In two other families living in the midst of a smallpox stricken village there were no cases of smallpox. A physical examination showed that they had good vaccination scars. Further inquiry elicited the statement that they had but recently come from another island where they had been vaccinated. In one house one person was found with varioloid. Upon inquiry it was learned that he had been vaccinated during childhood.

Net result: Community of 2,000 population; 1,000 unvaccinated persons contract smallpox; 400 die; 800 are protected by vaccination; no cases occur after the incubation period was passed; no deaths occur. The remaining 200 are semi-civilized and fled from the vaccinators, and their condition is unknown.

* Reprint from the Public Health Reports, Vol. XXVI, No. 15, April 14th, 1911.

THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.—The Prime Minister, replying to Mr. Evelyn Cecil, in the House of Commons on February 19th, stated that it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill during the present session for the better care and control of the feeble-minded on the lines of the Report of the Royal Commission issued in 1908.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

FOUNDED 1856.

RECONSTRUCTED 1888.

INCORPORATED 1892.

AN ORDINARY MEETING of the Society of Medical Officers of Health was held at the rooms of the Society, No. 1 Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C., on Friday, March 8th, at 5 p.m. Present:—Professor A. Bostock Hill (President), in the chair; Drs. Sir Shirley Murphy, J. Tubb-Thomas, W. G. Willoughby, F. J. Allan, H. Beale Collins, A. G. R. Cameron, E. W. Hope, R. H. Wilshaw, G. F. Buchan, T. Strain, J. R. Prior, W. J. Butcher, J. W. Hembrough, G. Quin Lennane, A. K. Chalmers, R. A. Lyster, J. J. Buchan, P. W. Spaul, F. E. Fremantle, E. H. T. Nash, William Butler, S. C. Lawrence, F. E. Rock, A. Bygott, F. Robinson, Alfred Ball, B. Barnett, D. D. Gold, G. C. Taylor, C. F. Stovin, W. H. Symons, F. W. Bywater, T. H. C. Stevenson, Charles Sanders, J. S. Tew, Randle Harper, Herbert Jones and G. F. McCleary.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, it was agreed to place on record the gratitude of the Society to the Registrar-General and Dr. Stevenson for the facilities they had granted to the members in connection with a visit paid to the Census Office earlier in the afternoon.

It was agreed to refer the general question of the salaries of medical officers of health to the Council for consideration and report.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT:—DR. A. G. R. CAMERON formally presented to the Society a portrait of Dr. W. G. Willoughby, of the Southern Branch. He commented upon the fact that Dr. Willoughby had been president of the Southern Branch on several occasions, and that last year he was President of the Society. He felt that it was fitting that this portrait should find a place on the walls with others now hanging there. (Applause).

The PRESIDENT said he was sure it was their wish that they should thank the Southern Branch for presenting them with a portrait of their ex-President. It would be a worthy addition to their gallery of many presidents. (Applause).

ELECTION OF FELLOWS:—

The following candidates, who have been duly nominated, were balloted for, and were declared by the President to be duly elected:—

Cecil Berry, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H., Appleton Cottage, Wigan; Frank Elton Cox, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., c/o Bank of Victoria, 10, King William Street, London, E.C.; Frank H. Scroggie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Hollybank, Orchard Place, Hamilton; Cuthbert F. Walker, B.A., M.D., B.S., D.P.H., the Isolation Hospital, Leicester.

The HON. SECRETARY read a list of nominations to membership of the Society.

DR. A. K. CHALMERS then read a paper upon "The Relation of Local Authorities to the Insurance Act."

*Published in the present issue.

Southern Branch.—A special meeting of the Southern Branch was held at the Audit House, Southampton, on March 1st at 2.30 p.m.

Present:—Drs. Lauder, A. Harris, Gillespie, R. A. Lyster, Hamilton, J. Lockhart Livingstone, J. P. Walker, Ralph Bartlett, R. Lloyd Legate, Hilda Clark, H. Hempstead, James Fenton, A. Mearns Fraser, Hon. Secretary.

In the absence of the President (Dr. Cameron), Dr. Lauder took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and considered.

Letters and telegrams regretting inability to be present were announced from Dr. Cameron, Dr. Wilshaw, Dr. Goodwin, Dr. Willoughby, Dr. Sheppard and Dr. Maples.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary to the Society was read with reference to the attendance at conferences of delegates from the Council.

Dr. Lyster proposed and Dr. Bartlett seconded that the meetings of the Branch should be held monthly instead of bi-monthly as at present. As an amendment it was proposed by Dr. Fraser, and seconded by Dr. Fenton, that the discussion of this subject be deferred till the October meeting. The amendment was carried. A further amendment proposed by Dr. Walker and seconded by Dr. Lyster, that a vote be taken by letter forthwith on the subject, was lost.

Dr. Lyster gave notice that at some future meeting he would propose that a separate Branch for Hampshire and the West of Sussex be formed independent of the Southern Branch.

Dr. Lyster then explained the principal points of a scheme for dealing with tuberculosis which he had prepared for the administrative county of Southampton. This was followed by considerable discussion, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Lyster for the paper.

It was decided that the next meeting be held on Friday, May 3rd, instead of on April 5th, owing to the latter being Good Friday. The place of meeting was left to the Secretary to arrange.

Home Counties Branch.—The fifth meeting of this Branch was held at the Society's Rooms, 1 Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, W.C., on Thursday the 15th February, 1912, at 4 p.m. Present:—Dr. H. F. Parsons, President (in the chair), Drs. Linton, Tew, Prior, Ball, Young, Stevenson, Strain, Habgood, Sanders, Williamson, Bygott, Clarke, J. T. C. Nash, Clements and Buchan, Hon. Secretary. Papers on "Summer Diarrhoea Experiences of 1911," were read by Dr. Clements, Beckenham; Dr. Williamson, Epsom; and Dr. Bygott, Barking.

Discussion followed and was taken part in by Drs. Tew, Sanders, Nash, Buchan and the President. The readers of the papers replied.

The sixth meeting of the Session 1911-12 was held at the Society's Rooms, 1, Upper Montague

Street, Russell Square, W.C., on March 21st, 1912. Present: Dr. C. Sanders (in the chair), in the absence through illness of Dr. Franklin Parsons, President. Drs. Butcher, Warren, Muir, Fremantle, Goddard, Lawrence, Bygott, J. Sim Wallace (visitor), Broome Giles (visitor), Ball, E. H. T. Nash, and Buchan, Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The following resolution was moved by Major Fremantle, seconded by Major Goddard, supported by Col. Broome Giles, and carried unanimously.

"That the sanitary organisation and discipline of the Territorial Force are wholly unequal to the dangers of pestilence and ill-health which, in case of mobilisation, it would have to face; that, both in peace and war, the Territorial Force must always be largely dependent on the civil sanitary service of the country, with which at present it has no effective relation; and that the attention of the Secretary of State for War be drawn to the need of a thorough enquiry into the matter, preferably by a small committee representing both military and civilian sanitary administration and experience.

Dr. Sim Wallace then read a paper on "Some Observations on the Prevention of Dental Caries." Discussion followed, and was taken part in by Drs. Fremantle, Muir, Bygott, Lawrence and Sanders, and Dr. Sim Wallace replied.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Sim Wallace for his paper.

Yorkshire Branch.—A meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held at the Education Offices, Leeds, on Friday, March 8th, 1912, when the following were present:—Dr. Hicks, the President; Drs. Adams (Wakefield), Angus (Bingley), Buchanan (Thirsk), Buck (Hunslet), Burman (Wath-on-Dearne), Cameron (Leeds), Castle (Darfield), Clark (Leeds), Coplan (Leeds), Dunne (Doncaster), Forsyth (Bradford), Gibson (Wakefield), Halliwell (Dewsbury), Jefferson (Ripon), Milne (Mirfield), Moore (Huddersfield), Pearce (Batley), Richmond (Wakefield), Scatterty (Keighley), Smith (York), Sutherland (Wakefield), Wear (Leeds), Wilson (Beverley), and J. R. Kaye, Hon. Secretary.

The President (Dr. Hicks) submitted his address, his subject being "The Past, the Present, and the Future of Rural Sanitation—as I have known it, as I experience it, and my forecast."

Dr. Mitchell Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to the President, and congratulated him on the work he had been able to accomplish in the rural district of Easingwold, instancing as an example the provision of no less than 18 miles of water piping in the various villages in that district. Dr. Spottiswoode Cameron supported the vote of thanks, commenting on the decrease in the death-rate since 1875—all going to show the vast improvement which had taken place in the public health since that date.

Dr. Adam then read his paper on "The Treatment of Ringworm among School Children," which proved exceedingly interesting and edifying.

A discussion took place on the relationship of ringworm to the existence of lice in the head. Dr. Wear thought that a close connection existed between lice and ringworm, but the majority of the members (*e.g.*, Drs. Smith, Burman, Halliwell, Moore, Gibson, and Dunne) controverted this idea. The connection between human and bovine ringworm was referred to by Dr. Angus. It was generally thought that no scheme of ringworm treatment was complete without the utilisation of the X-rays, and it was emphasised that the apparatus should be in the hands of an expert.

Brief discussions followed upon the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911, and on the memoranda of the Local Government Board relating to acute poliomyelitis and cerebro-spinal fever. Some dubiety was expressed as to the period during which poliomyelitis should be considered "acute" and notifiable.

Dr. Smith, of York, submitted the following motion:—"That in future at least every fourth meeting of this Branch be held either in the city of York or in the North or East Riding." This was seconded by Dr. Cameron, of Leeds, and carried unanimously.

Reference was made to the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held at York, July 27th to August 3rd, to which all the members were cordially invited, and the President (Dr. Hicks) with the Hon. Secretary (Dr. Kaye) were asked to attend as the representatives of the Branch.

At the meeting of the Council it was unanimously resolved to present the portrait of Dr. Spottiswoode Cameron, of Leeds, an ex-President of the Society, to the Society, for inclusion in the collection at the Society's rooms in London. It was also decided to hold the annual dinner early in the Spring, and to call an early meeting of the Branch for a discussion on the use of tuberculin in the treatment of consumption.

North-Western Branch.—A meeting of the North-Western Branch was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, March 15th, 1912. Present: Dr. R. Sidney Marsden (President) in the chair, Drs. Buchan, Buckley, Tattersall, Wilkinson, Harris, Daley, Holden, Hawksley, Fitzgerald, Anderson, Welsh, Hitchon, Fraser, Sergeant, Dearden and Barlow (Hon. Sec.)

Apologies for inability to be present were submitted on behalf of Drs. Hope, Peck, Arnold, Wheatley, Garstang and Young.

The librarian reported that the book-case had been moved to Professor Délépine's laboratory, and a catalogue of the books had been made.

The report of the Committee with regard to the Joint Conference on the Pollution of Air by Smoke, and the appointment of delegates thereto, was received and adopted. The following were the delegates appointed, namely:—the President,

Drs. Dearden, Tattersall, Sergeant, Wilkinson, Niven, Hope, Anderson, Délépine and Barlow (Hon. Sec.).

Dr. Sergeant then read his paper on "The Insurance Act in Relation to the Control of Consumption." Drs. Buchan, Hawksley, Daley, Tattersall and the President contributed to the discussion, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Sergeant for his interesting paper.

We regret that in the account of the meeting of the North-Western Branch, on February 16th which appeared in our last issue, Mr. W. Thomson was erroneously described as the Secretary of the Society of Chemical Industry.

LAW REPORTS.

THE COURT OF SESSION (SCOTLAND). SECOND DIVISION.

December 2nd, 1911.

BEFORE LORDS DUNDAS, SALVESEN AND GUTHRIE.
MURRAYFIELD REAL ESTATE COMPANY, LTD.,
v. EDINBURGH MAGISTRATES.

Housing, Town-Planning, &c., Act, 1909, Section 43.—Back-to-back Houses.—Flats.

A block of building or tenement intended to be occupied as flats with four houses on each storey, two to the front and two to the back, each house in front being separated from the one behind it by a continuous unbroken wall, and with a common staircase, the passage at the foot thereof going through the building, is a building that would contravene Section 43 of the Housing, Town-Planning, &c., Act, 1909, which prohibits the erection of back-to-houses.

This was an appeal from a decision of the Edinburgh Dean of Guild Court, whereby they granted a warrant to the Murrayfield Real Estate Company, Ltd., to erect four tenements or blocks of building of three storeys each for dwelling houses for the working classes. The grant of the warrant was opposed by the Edinburgh City Council who appealed against the decision, on the ground that these houses would contravene Section 43 of the Housing, Town-Planning, &c., Act, 1909, being back-to-back houses. It appeared from the plans that there were to be four houses on each flat, two to the front and two to the back, and that the houses to the front were to be separated from those at the back by a centre wall in which there were only to be certain centre door openings with a common wall. The houses were all to be entered from one street by a common passage, carried through the building to the back, and as regards the upper flats by a common stair. The Dean of Guild stated that the term "back-to-back houses" was unknown in Scotland. From the evidence it appeared that in England it meant houses built in terraces with a solid party wall running parallel to two terraces, the houses being built on each side of this wall.