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CUBA.

Report from Habana—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Prophylactic measures carried out at last focus of yellow fever infection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Amessee reports, December 16:

Week ended December 14.

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|---|-----|
| Vessels inspected and bills of health issued..... | 15 |
| Vessels not inspected and bills of health issued..... | 5 |
| Members of crews of outgoing vessels inspected..... | 660 |
| Members of crews of outgoing vessels not inspected..... | 664 |
| Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected..... | 415 |
| Passengers of outgoing vessels not inspected..... | 17 |
| Persons entering Triscornia for observation prior to sailing..... | 96 |
| Persons transferred from Triscornia to vessels..... | 142 |
| Certificates of immunity to yellow fever issued..... | 29 |
| Vessels fumigated prior to sailing..... | 9 |

During the week no new cases of yellow fever were reported in the Province of Habana.

All prophylactic measures have been taken at the last focus, Calle Sol, this city, these precautions embracing a thorough fumigation, with sulphur for a radius of one block about the infected premises, and a daily inspection of residents.

The case at Remedios was discharged, recovered, December 11, and no further infection has been reported from that district.

Report from Santiago—Inspection of vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, December 11:

Week ended December 7. Bills of health issued to 2 vessels bound for the United States. No vessel was fumigated.

No quarantinable disease was reported during the week.

HAWAII.

Reports from Honolulu—Examination of rats for plague infection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Currie reports that during the week ended November 30, 162 rats were examined bacteriologically at the plague laboratory of the Service at Honolulu. Plague infection was proved in 2 rats sent from Hilo. A vigorous antirat campaign is being carried on at Hilo by board of health.

Flea and plague.

Passed Assistant Ramus reports, December 5:

The following is a report on an incident occurring in the Service laboratory here which may have a bearing upon the work of investigation of fleas now being carried on by the Service:

A pig died of plague November 18; the laboratory attendant (disregarding his instructions to apply chloroform to all animals to destroy vermin before taking them from their cages) removed the animal from his cage without this precaution. As he did so, a flea

jumped upon his hand and bit him. He immediately placed his hand in a solution of bichloride of mercury, 1 to 500, drowning the insect and covering the site of the bite with this fluid. After keeping his hand in this solution for a few minutes, he applied a wet bichloride pack. He did not scratch the bite. Examination showed a large wheal at the site of the bite.

An insect, supposed to have been the one that had bitten the attendant, was found in the bichloride solution. It was a very large flea of a pale yellow color, long in proportion to breadth, largest at the ventral end and tapering abruptly to the head. The insect was identical in appearance with fleas sent from San Francisco to the Bureau for identification and probably of the same species. We crushed the insect between two glass slides and several drops of fresh looking blood exuded from it. The blood when fixed and stained showed large numbers of typical plague bacilli. A smear from the blood of the pig showed a marked plague septicemia.

Ten cubic centimeters of Yersin's serum were administered to the laboratory attendant a few hours after he was bitten, the remedy being given in the interscapular region near the medium line.

Two days later the patient complained of slight chilliness and pain in both axillæ. Examination showed a normal temperature but an acutely sensitive gland somewhat larger than a pigeon's egg in each axilla.

These symptoms are the rule after the administration of Yersin's serum. The patient desired to continue at his regular duties and was allowed to do so. No further symptoms developed and the buboes disappeared rapidly.

Attendants had been previously instructed to apply bichloride at once and avoid scratching in case they were bitten. These measures were carried out exactly in this case; but whether this accounts for the failure of the patient to develop plague or whether the protection was due to Yersin's serum it is impossible to say.

Cholera at Honolulu—Outgoing quarantine in force—Quarantine officers on Pacific coast notified.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Ramus reports:

December 21. An Hawaiian stevedore died of cholera to-day. Have wired Oakley, Port Townsend quarantine, and Hobdy, San Francisco quarantine. Have put on outgoing quarantine.

December 23. The case of cholera is a stevedore, River Street; native of Honolulu. He worked December 13, 14, and 15 sorting fruit on the Oceanic wharf for the steamship *Alameda*; December 16 worked with the cargo of an island steamship. His whereabouts December 17 and 18 unknown. He was seen drunk December 19. The immediate source of infection is unknown. The ultimate source is probably Yokohama. The patient sickened December 19 at 11 p. m. He was seen December 20 at 8 p. m. by Currie and Brinckerhoff, also by city bacteriologist and by several local men familiar with the disease; regarded by all present as a typical clinical picture of cholera; died December 21 a. m. Necropsy showed nothing else to account for death. Microscopical examination showed majority of intestinal flora to be typical spirilla. Cultural work is being carried on by Currie, but he fears that the organism is dead. The