

BOARD OF HEALTH

Matters Regarding Quarantine Attended to.

ACTION REGARDING IMMIGRANTS

Quarantine at Waikiki to be Enforced.

Vessels From Infected Ports to be Quarantined—Crematory to be Established.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Health yesterday afternoon Dr. Wood took the chair as temporary chairman, on account of the quarantining of Minister Cooper at Waikiki. The others present were: Drs. Day and Wood and Messrs. Lansing, Brown, Kelliopio and Reynolds. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Fish Inspector Kelliopio's report for the week ending Sunday, April 11, showed 40,524 fish received at the market.

Under the act to mitigate, Dr. Monarrat's report showed 79 examinations for the past week.

The regular report of Mr. Meyers in regard to the state of affairs at the leper settlement on Molokai was read and filed. Nothing of much importance was contained therein.

A communication from Attorney General Smith in regard to the quarantine regulations in the United States Marine Hospital Service, and the period of quarantine governing plague was read.

A communication from Minister Cooper to the president of the Board of Health was to the effect that the Government desired an investigation into the origin of the cases of smallpox among the immigrants from the steamship Kinai Maru, who are now in quarantine at Mouloua.

Health Agent Reynolds said that he had communicated with Mr. McVeigh in regard to the matter, and had learned that an investigation had been made; also, that the immigrants all furnished the same story in regard to the Japanese who is supposed to have had his neck broken by falling down the hatch. They denied in toto the story that there had been smallpox developed aboard on the trip from Japan to this port. Whether they had been coached by the officers of the ship to say nothing about the affair could not be learned.

Dr. Wood was in favor of advising Dr. Emerson to proceed at once with an investigation into the condition of the immigrants and to look especially for any signs of the recent markings of smallpox.

Dr. Day then gave the members of the board some idea of how the Japanese could have fallen down the hatch. The officers of the Kinai Maru and the immigrants all told the same story. It seems that at certain times during the day the hatches of the steamer were opened for the purpose of ventilation. It was at one of these times that the Japanese lay sleeping near the hatch. The ship gave a roll, a lurch or made some other sudden movement, and the Japanese fell down into the hold with the result of a broken neck. No amount of investigation could bring forth anything further. Dr. Day said that there must have been smallpox or varioloid aboard the Kinai Maru. Upon investigation, the crew of the steamship, the members had been stripped to the waist, but no marks of any kind could be found. The clue was to be found among the Japanese at the quarantine station if it is to be taken for granted that the man who "broke his neck" did not have smallpox or varioloid.

Dr. Day further remarked that it would be a very matter for a mild case of varioloid to be developed aboard ship without detection by the doctor. Probably the Japanese were not examined once from the time they left Japan until they arrived at this port. Examination at sea was no easy matter.

Health Agent Reynolds informed the board that he had been to Waikiki to confer with Minister Cooper and had entered the Castle premises, where the quarantined people are now situated.

Just here came an objection which started in a chaffing mood at first, but which ended in several of the members of the board becoming quite worked up about the matter. Questions were asked why anyone should have communication with anyone inside the taboored inclosure, and why, if a quarantine was kept at all, it was not rigidly enforced. Mr. Brown thought the matter of quarantine a farce if guards were not stationed at Mr. J. B. Castle's home, in Waikiki, to keep people from entering the premises.

Mr. Reynolds then explained why he had visited the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was hardly possible for him to sign his name to a certain important paper over the telephone.

Just here Dr. Wood explained the situation, and said that a false impression had been cast abroad. The Board of Health had been censured for allowing the Minister of Foreign Affairs and others who had been at the quarantine station making a Government investigation, to pass through the streets of Honolulu in hacks. There was absolutely no danger in this action. Smallpox could have been communicated by these people to others in only two ways. If any of them had taken smallpox from the diseased Japanese at the quarantine station, then it would have been necessary for nine days to elapse before the possibility of giving it to any one else. As a matter of fact, they came ashore the day after the cases appeared. Again, the disease could have been communicated to the clothing of the investigators and thus

brought ashore, but the fact that the clothing was thoroughly fumigated before they came ashore is sufficient guarantee that no germs were brought to Honolulu.

Dr. Day then moved that a guard be placed on the residence of Mr. J. B. Castle at Waikiki, and that no one be allowed to enter the quarantine inclosure, unless in possession of a permit from the acting president of the Board of Health. Unanimously carried.

Health Agent Reynolds moved that Dr. Emerson be instructed by the board, through the secretary, that a written report be prepared on investigation into the cause of the outbreak of smallpox, so far as can be ascertained. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Lansing—In case of death of any of the smallpox patients, what are we going to do with the bodies?

Dr. Wood—Cremate them.

Dr. Day—The matter of a crematory has been considered before. We should have one at the quarantine station, and that at once. A law bearing on this matter should be made at once.

Mr. Brown—Have we firewood enough?

Mr. Lansing—There's plenty of coal, and our credit is good.

A communication was received from President Dole, requesting that the board take no action in putting the rejected Japanese immigrants aboard the Kinai Maru until hearing from him.

It was the opinion of the board that the board had nothing at all to do with the matter. Everything lay in the hands of the Government.

Dr. Day—Mr. President. Our quarantine precautions at the other end of the line have proven failures. It is necessary for us to impose an extra quarantine here. These ships with uncertain reports are not to be relied on.

Mr. Reynolds—Too much precaution cannot be taken. The few white officers aboard these Japanese vessels have been, and will be, deceived by the Japanese officers.

Dr. Wood—It would be a good move to quarantine steamers from infected ports for the full period of incubation of smallpox, after arrival at this port. This settled, the board could regulate matters. It was sheer good luck that we did not have an epidemic of smallpox in Honolulu. The Japanese would have been discharged immediately after release and fumigation, had it not been for the Government investigation. That was the only thing which saved us.

Dr. Day moved that the quarantine for the steamer passengers from infected ports be extended to 18 days after arrival at this port. Unanimously carried.

The matter of a crematory at the quarantine station was then brought up, and after considerable discussion, Dr. Day was appointed a committee of one to confer with Mr. Hedemann of the Honolulu Iron Works in regard to plans for a crematory. The board seemed to be in favor of its immediate construction.

Dr. Day asked a question in regard to Japanese man-of-war from an infected port. Would such a vessel be quarantined in the same manner as other vessels? After discussion it was moved and carried that should a Japanese man-of-war, destined to remain in this port, arrive, she should be quarantined in the harbor.

Dr. Day reported on the matter of a site for a new burial ground, and upon the receipt of a letter from Mr. B. F. Dillingham in regard thereto, Mr. Reynolds was instructed to look into the matter and report.

Board adjourned at 4:15 p. m.

CASES DEVELOPED

Small Pox Spreading at Quarantine Hospital.

Two Suspects on Tuesday Develop Disease Yesterday—Another Suspect Reported.

When Agent McVeigh examined the Japanese at quarantine Tuesday afternoon he found two men who showed symptoms of the disease, and immediately segregated them in the hospital. Yesterday morning the symptoms had developed into genuine smallpox.

Yesterday afternoon he found another immigrant with the same symptoms and put him with the others in the hospital. A telephone message received from Mr. McVeigh last night was to the effect that there is no doubt the last case is one of smallpox. It is also stated that the four cases already developed and the one suspect are all rejected men, and the most dilapidated and uncleanly of the lot.

The strictest watch is kept upon all of these Japanese, and there is no reason to fear that the disease will get outside the quarantine station. Agent McVeigh has personal supervision over the men, and the guards have been notified to report immediately any symptoms of illness of any character. By prompt action he expects to keep the disease from spreading generally among the immigrants.

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