

QUARANTINE.

Report of Health Officer Carnochan for the Year 1870.

An Exhaustive Review of the Quarantine Question.

The Laws Which Govern Diseases Considered from Sanitary and Commercial Standpoints—How They Should be Administered—The Port of New York Requires—Measures Recommended—What the Legislature Should Do—Interesting Details and Records.

TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUARANTINE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit to your honorable board the following report of the general condition of the Quarantine Department.

The experience of the past year enables me to offer a few suggestions in regard to various changes and improvements which are necessary to meet the exigencies of a well appointed Quarantine.

THE SUBJECT OF QUARANTINE, as properly understood, has numerous reciprocal relations in connection with the interests of commerce and the preservation of the public health.

It should be considered with the view of reducing its management to a regular system, in order that the various details may be carried out with promptness and discrimination, and in such manner as to impose the least possible restraints upon commercial enterprise compatible with the public safety.

The quarantine laws were originally made to guard against the introduction of pestilential diseases into our country by the arrival of infected vessels at the various ports.

SANITARY AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS are thus apparently, by an implied necessity of restraint, thrown into a kind of antagonism. By a proper knowledge, however, of the history, progress and laws which govern the course of pestilential maladies, the regulation of Quarantine can be so systematized as to accomplish in a great degree the objects for which Quarantine was instituted, and yet not necessarily embarrass the pursuits of commerce, except so far as to insure the general safety of the community.

To carry on properly, however, a system with these ends in view, the necessary facilities for administration must be provided. It is of great importance that persons arriving from infected localities who are suffering with disease shall be completely isolated, at the same time that they be well cared for and receive good medical attention.

The second class of persons who should be subjected to quarantine are those who have been exposed to infection and who may have the seeds of disease lurking in their systems. These should also be isolated for a certain length of time, in order to afford opportunity for observation of their condition during the period of incubation.

THE PERIOD OF INCUBATION which is common to contagious diseases. Persons who have been exposed to a malarious atmosphere, or who have been breathing for a time a close air charged with pestilential poison, should not be permitted to mingle freely in a healthy community, as thereby disease is apt to be developed; still, it would be injudicious and inhuman to keep those who have been merely exposed to disease in contact or communication with the sick.

To meet the requirements of this class of persons MEANS MUST BE PROVIDED to secure positive isolation and the various hygienic appliances for the prevention of disease and the elimination of the pestilential influences with which their systems may be charged, while the various comforts of good diet, pure air, clean bedding, &c., shall be provided.

The construction of artificial islands in the lower bay, with an area of from two to three acres, amply in extent for the erection of hospitals and other appropriate buildings for the accommodation and hygienic management of the sick and infected, and placed sufficiently remote to insure

IMMUNITY FROM DANGER of the spread of the disease, will secure incalculable benefits to the citizens of New York and the adjoining cities of Brooklyn and Jersey City.

From the extensive and wide spread ramifications of the mercantile interests of the city of New York, pestilential diseases must necessarily find their way to the harbor of the great commercial emporium of the country; yet, with sufficient comfort to the mouth of the laborer, and with the aid of the various sanitary appliances, combined with a well regulated administration of quarantine, the public may rest in tranquil safety while pestilence is kept at bay at the very gates of the city.

THE INCREASED INTRODUCTION OF STEAMSHIPS into the mercantile marine and the rapid transmission of news by ocean telegraphs have to a certain extent, increased the exigencies of the Quarantine Department. Masters of vessels arriving from distant ports, after a comparatively short voyage, are not satisfied to drop anchor and wait for the slow process of boarding, as formerly practiced. The medical officer must be on board the vessel as soon as she reaches the quarantine grounds, the steam whistle or the booming of a gun gives the notice of approach, and the vessel is immediately required to anchor, and the passengers are immediately required for inspection, except in cases where sickness exists, the examination of ship and passengers is completed and the permit given to proceed.

THE INCREASED INTRODUCTION OF STEAMSHIPS now pervading the shipping community it is evident that to keep up with the times the tardy rowing boats are no longer tenable for the purpose of conveying the sick and infected to the hospital, and that increasing labor and activity are demanded at all times, during the night as well as the day.

This theory of progress in quarantine I have endeavored to carry into effect, and have been very truly gratified since the commencement of my term of office, to find that the quarantine laws have been so administered as to be in accordance with the public safety, and to be in accordance with the public safety, and to be in accordance with the public safety.

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The floating hospital is now happily superseded by the commodious hospital on West Bank; but the anchorage wharves are still in use, and in importance to the isolated accommodations for the sick, are still altogether unimproved.

Since the destruction of the Quarantine buildings no provision has been made for the construction of new warehouses and docks.

In connection with quarantine, although the necessity for their erection has been frequently pressed upon the attention of the Legislature.

The quarantine laws are in many respects antiquated, and in many respects are in need of amendment. It is therefore recommended that the Legislature should take prompt action upon the subject, and that the Quarantine Department should be reorganized, and that the Quarantine laws should be amended, and that the Quarantine Department should be reorganized, and that the Quarantine laws should be amended.

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inspired, but they may not present positive indications of being infected. When placed in the upper bay, at a safe but convenient distance from the city, could be used to receive cargoes from such vessels as were considered to be in a state of quarantine during the quarantine season. Such stores would have speedy and proper ventilation, the period of detention would be shortened, and the expense of the operation would be placed at the disposal of the owner.

THE QUARANTINE POLICE of the last session of the Legislature have done good service during the past year in preventing communication with vessels and quarantine and in checking the wide-spread depredations of the rats which have been committed upon vessels discharging cargo in the upper bay. The five men appointed last spring have done good service during the quarantine season. During the whole season not a single case of fever has occurred. Several arrests have been made; but the effect of the presence of a police force to a great extent prevented the occurrence of any more serious cases of fever than in connection with the crews of vessels lying at quarantine.

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Notwithstanding the lessons thus afforded by the experience of former years, a summer to evade quarantine, by carrying cargoes from infected ports consigned to New York to Perth Amboy, N. J., and then, without delay, transporting them to New York, and finally discharging them, was discharged following close upon the heels of these vessels, and had not been examined or received papers from the Quarantine Department of this port.

Several vessels which had evaded quarantine in this manner came up to the Brooklyn docks in the latter part of the season. All these vessels were known to have been in contact with the disease on the passage or at their port of departure, and it is a fact that soon after their arrival the first case of yellow fever broke out in the city of New York.

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constitution of Quarantine was fully apparent in the epidemic on Governor's Island, to which I have already referred. They afforded means for the prompt removal and isolation of the sick from the general population, and the means were surrounded with every comfort and received all the attention requisite to promote their recovery.

While the new hospital at West Bank may be considered one of the most important additions which could have been made to the quarantine establishment, it is not less necessary that the other structures, intended for the same purpose, should be improved.

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In connection with quarantine, although the necessity for their erection has been frequently pressed upon the attention of the Legislature.

The quarantine laws are in many respects antiquated, and in many respects are in need of amendment. It is therefore recommended that the Legislature should take prompt action upon the subject, and that the Quarantine Department should be reorganized, and that the Quarantine laws should be amended, and that the Quarantine Department should be reorganized, and that the Quarantine laws should be amended.

THE QUARANTINE ESTABLISHMENT of the port of New York according to the act passed in 1863, is as follows: First—Warehouses, wet docks and wharves. Second—Anchorage wharves