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BOARD OF HEALTH

Report on Disinfectants for Use on Merchandise.

FORMALIN WONT KILL MICROBES

But Sulphur Straight Gave Them Their Quietus—Full Description of the Recent Experiments.

Discussion of microbes and methods of murdering them filled the air at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Health. The occasion was the presentation of Dr. Alvarez' report regarding the fumigation experiments carried on at the Mail dock. The summary of the report was as follows: Formalin had failed to kill the germs; on the contrary they had thrived upon the diet, but it was proven that sulphur exterminated them.

After reading the report the Board discussed several vital matters in executive session. In fact the whole meeting was behind closed doors. The report of Dr. Alvarez is as follows: Mr. H. E. Cooper, President of the Board of Health.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to submit the report of the experiments made to determine the efficacy of formalin and also of sulphur as disinfectants of merchandise.

On the 15th instant, under the direction of Dr. F. R. Day, the port physician, and Mr. C. B. Reynolds, the executive officer of the Board of Health, I prepared six agar-agar Petri dishes and inoculated them as follows: Two with bacilli of bubonic plague, one with the bacilli of typhoid fever, one with the bacilli of diphtheria, one with the bacilli of pseudo-diphtheria, and one with the bacillus prodigiosus.

I prepared also twelve agar-agar test tubes and inoculated them with the pathogenic germs above mentioned and also with the bacillus of pneumonia.

The Petri dishes and the test tubes, containing the germs of the diseases mentioned, were placed all over the room used for fumigating freight at the Pacific Mail wharf. Wire netting was used to cover them as protection against rats and mice.

The doors were closed and the formalin lamp discharged its vapor through a small hole in the door for nine hours and a half.

On the following day the doors were opened and the Petri dishes and test tubes gathered. It could be seen at a glance that all the disease germs were growing and showed vigorous colonies. The bacillus prodigiosus grew with such rapidity that the greater part of the Petri dish was covered with bright-red colonies.

Two days later numerous moulds and ordinary germs found in the air have grown in the dishes and test tubes.

From the foregoing facts I draw the following conclusions: Formalin, as used in this experiment, is worthless as a disinfectant. It is not capable of destroying the germs of any disease nor of arresting their development. It did not show any deleterious influence over the ordinary germs that float in the air.

In closing this report I would suggest that the fumigating room be divided into two or more small compartments and, above all, that they be made air-tight.

Respectfully submitted, L. F. ALVAREZ, M. D., Bacteriologist to the Board of Health, Honolulu, July 19th, 1899.

There were present at the meeting: President Cooper, Secretary Wilcox, Dr. Wood, Dr. Day, Dr. Emerson, G. W. Smith, Agent Reynolds, E. C. Winston and L. D. Keliipio.

Robert Grieve's Funeral.

The funeral of the late Robert Grieve, who died in San Francisco and whose remains arrived by the Mariposa yesterday, will take place from the family residence at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The services will be conducted by Rev. Alex. Mackintosh. The pallbearers will be A. T. Atkinson, J. H. Soper, J. Mort Oat, J. Cassidy, W. O. Atwater and G. L. McLeod. The body will be interred in Nuuanu cemetery.

THE VERY LATEST.

The Advertiser's correspondent who has done such good work in sending news from the scene of the present eruption and whose description of his visit to the crater with the first party to ascend the mountain has met with well-merited praise, sends the following from Punahou under date of July 18: "The Kihohanga leaves here in a few minutes for Honolulu. I have just been talking with W. R. Castle at the Volcano House. He and his party returned from the craters last night safe and well. They went up on Friday and all had a good time. "Mr. Castle says there is considerably increased activity in the live crater, and one or two of the other craters which were apparently dead are now smoking again. "The main flow, according to Mr. Castle, is now going north-east and north into Aihahau, and turned towards Hilo. This flow is already from twelve to fifteen miles long and shows no signs of decreasing. "Mr. Castle's party discovered an entirely new flow coming slowly towards Kau. This new flow is entirely independent and distinct from the first Kau flow, and it proceeds from a point considerably below the high crater. "The whole of the Kau district is enveloped in a dense smoke for the past two days. We are unable to trace its source and cannot tell whether it is from Kilauca or the new craters. It was so thick last night that we could not even see the reflection. "It is just two weeks ago this morning since the present eruption began."

U. S. Senator Clark

Senator C. D. Clark of Wyoming is in Honolulu again. He arrived by the Mariposa yesterday morning and intends to complete his tour of the Islands. The genial Senator is as cheerful as ever and as sanguine over the future of Hawaii. He has not the slightest doubt but that a territorial form of government with broad privileges will be granted. While his visit here will be taken up principally with sight-seeing he will continue his investigations of local conditions. Almost the first man he looked for after his arrival was Colonel Sam Parker, his former host. When Senator Clark goes back he intends to have the Colonel go with him.

Shortest on Record.

In the two suits brought by Jessie Kaae and Junius Kaae against the Oahu Railway and Land Company for the recovery of royal jewelry and clothing alleged to have been contained in two valises lost between Kahuku and Honolulu Attorney F. M. Hatch for the railroad company has filed what are probably the shortest answers on record in any case. They are identical and contain exactly eleven words each, viz: "Said defendant denies each and every allegation in plaintiff's complaint contained."

A Noted Surgeon.

Dr. Nicholas Senn, a noted Chicago physician, is visiting this city. He is being looked after by Dr. Wood, who formerly studied under him.

FOR GUATEMALA

Possibility of American Protectorate Has Arisen.

WARSHIPS HURRYING TO SCENE

The United States Government May Be Called Upon to Take Charge There.

NEW ORLEANS, July 12.—The Pleayune prints the following:

News of the gravest import from Guatemala was brought to this city by passengers on the Snyder steamship Breakwater, which touched at four or five of the leading Central American ports before putting in here late Monday night. "Just before sailing for New Orleans," said one of the passengers, "I was informed by several persons that England and Germany would shortly make a naval demonstration at the two leading ports of the Republic of Guatemala. I learned that a large amount of bonds issued by the Government of Guatemala and held by English and German interests have been practically repudiated and that the German and English holders have protested vigorously to their governments. "Four warships are said to have been ordered to Guatemala waters, two German and two English. One of each flag will proceed to Puerto Barrios and one of each nation will be sent to San Jose de Guatemala, which is on the Pacific side of the republic. "The point that most interests the United States is that if this seizure of the custom-houses should result in a long holding of those ports, in order that the amount could be collected, it would be necessary for a protectorate to be established over the republic of Guatemala while this was going on. In that case, the natural course of affairs would be to turn to either Mexico or the United States for that protectorate. The first proposition would hardly be probable because of the bad feeling existing between Guatemala and the republic of Mexico over the boundary dispute."

RETURNING VOLUNTEERS.

The transports Ohio and Newport were sighted off San Francisco harbor just as the Mariposa left. The Second Oregon Regiment and California Signal Service men were on board. At once the screaming of sirens on the city front announced the tidings to the entire city, and the towns across the bay. A moment later the firing of cannon began, shot after shot, as it thundered out in salute, placing the meaning of the earlier signals beyond doubt. At almost the same moment, on numberless flagstaves throughout the city, the national colors shot upward and the Stars and Stripes, everywhere flung to the breeze, gave yet further emphasis to the fact that the soldier boys were returning. Crowds of people hurried to the heights overlooking the northern bay, eager to catch the first glimpse possible of the ships bringing back the men who had dared and suffered so much in the Far East in their country's cause. The trip into and up the bay is a long one and the announcement was speedily made that it would be 6 o'clock before the transports would reach their anchorage.

CRUELTY TO DREYFUS DENIED.

PARIS, July 12.—M. Lebon, the former Minister of Colonies, has addressed a long letter to the Government in reply to the charges of Louis Havet, member of the French Institute, who accompanied Madame Dreyfus to Rennes, who alleges that Dreyfus was cruelly treated in his island prison.

ALL-BRITISH PACIFIC CABLE.

LONDON, July 11.—The "Daily Mail" says this morning: "It has been agreed that Australasia shall bear eight-eighths of the cost of the Pacific cable and Great Britain and Canada each five-eighths."

THE PLAGUE IN ALEXANDRIA.

ALEXANDRIA, July 10.—Three cases of plague were reported here yesterday. The inhabitants are disconcerted with the sanitary precautions, have threatened trouble, and yesterday roughly handled two doctors.

NEWS NOTES.

King Oscar of Sweden is aiding the peace movement. The trial of Dreyfus will probably commence on August 1. Senator Morgan is out for harmony in the Democratic ranks. General Wheeler has left Washington en route to the Philippines. The British cruisers Doris and Wideseon have arrived at Delagoa Bay. Six out of a family of seven were killed by a train at an Ohio crossing. Torrents of rain have flooded the quarters of American troops in Manila. Mrs. M. D. Majors, an old resident of Davisville, California, was burned to death. The report that the King of Belgium would visit the United States this summer is denied. Secretary Alger's enemies assert that he has resigned, but he still holds down his desk. Queensland has offered the British government 250 mounted infantry for service in Africa if needed. M. Daniel, the Governor of Devil's Island, has lost his job for undue severities inflicted on Dreyfus. In the House of Commons it has been announced that the Delagoa Bay award will be made in October. The hospital ship Relief, on the way from Manila, left Yokohama on July 12 with 250 sick soldiers on board. Blanche Bates is being criticized in New York for working advertising schemes through her press agent. The Congressional Investigating Committee on the Alaska boundary question has returned from Alaska. The refrigerator ship Glacier, with a cargo of fresh beef for the Manila fleet, reached Singapore on the 11th. General Wheeler's daughter Annie has volunteered as a nurse in the Philippines, and will accompany her father. It is rumored that Spain is negotiating for the return of some of her ships captured by the United States in the late war. A Burlington special crashed into a freight train at Newman Station, California, and two sleeping women were crushed to death. Queen Margherita of Italy wants to climb one of the highest peaks of the Alps to take part in the dedication of a shrine to the Virgin. Margaret Francis Hill is the name of a child born in quarantine at Angel Island, the mother being one of the Nippon Maru's passengers. Hatfield, the noted desperado and originator of the Hatfield-McCoy feud that has cost 141 lives, has surrendered to Governor Atkins of West Virginia in person. The steamer Portia, from New York for Halifax, was wrecked about fifteen miles east of the latter place. The crew and passengers, 115 in all, were saved by the ship's boats. It is likely that the French government will make General Brugere commander in chief and vice president of the Supreme Council of War in place of General Jamont. It was only recently that General Brugere succeeded General Zurlinden as military governor of Paris. At 1:45 this morning there was a foreign steamer anchored off the harbor.

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