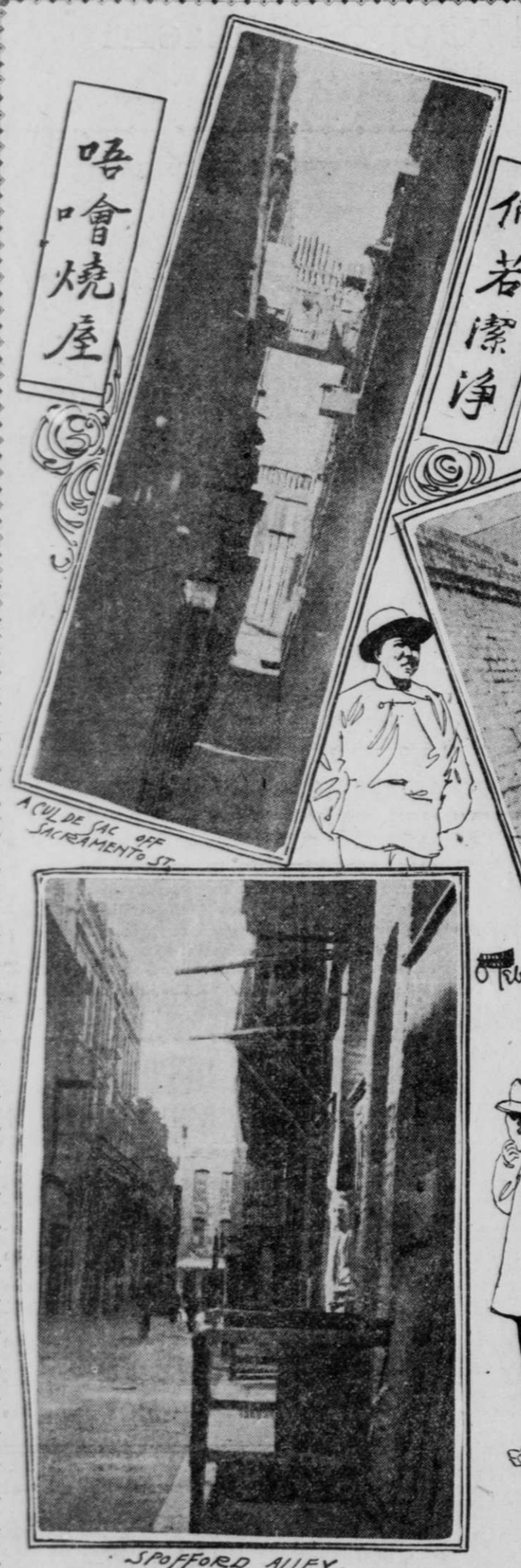
DANGER OF PLAGUE HAS PASSED AND VIGILANCE WILL INSURE COMPLETE SAFETY TO THE CITY

A Most Rigid Quarantine Being Maintained While Health Officials Cleanse the Chinese Quarter of Its Refuse.

Dr. George F. Shrady Declares That Chinatown Can Be Permitted to Remain in Its Present Filthy Condition Only as a Menace of the Most Dangerous Character to San Francisco.

Alleys of the Chinese Quarter That Are Now Undergoing Official Inspection and Fumigation.



THE GREAT LESSON OF THE HOUR

NO living case of plague yet seen in San Francisco. From my point of view, being a mere visitor here, this condition of things is somewhat difficult to explain. In this state of mind the people in San Francisco very generally share. They say, if the plague is here, why is not a real live example of it shown to us? San Francisco is very much concerned about the quarantine question and well she might be. The merchants are most particularly anxious on the question, as it is easy to see that millions of dollars are involved in its proper and practical settlement.

Texas has already quarantined against San Francisco. The fear on the part of the people of San Francisco is that other States, actuated by like and what appears to me to be senseless fears, may also follow suit. The fact is every precaution has been taken at this end of the line to guard against any possible spread of the disease. It might almost be said that plague is not here. Where is it? It is only the fact that the authorities here are straining a point to be on the right side, and I can testify to the fact that so far as the control of the disease is concerned it is perfect here. There is no cause for alarm on the part of outsiders. Chinatown is quarantined, and that quarantine is for all practical purposes perfect.

The universal verdict is that Chinatown must be cleaned up, plague or no plague. I think I have in some descriptions of tours in this district made it so plain that Chinatown is so notoriously filthy that almost any superlative could fit such a condition. Considering all things, it is a great wonder that plague or any other infectious disease has not swept Chinatown long ago with a tidal wave of awful mortality. It is yet a serious question whether or not we have heard of the last case from the recent invasion.

These are certainly serious considerations for San Francisco and for all those who are directly or indirectly connected with its vast mercantile and maritime interests. She has in her very midst the most threatening of all contributing elements of plague propagation in the invitingly filthy condition of her Chinese quarter. In this latter place, if the plague should get a firm foothold, it will find its natural soil for the most widespread and awful dissemination. The lesson of the hour seems to be that no possible chances in any direction should be taken that it get any foothold whatever. I am confident from what I know of the disposition on the part of the leading citizens here that it will be all right in time if only a little patience is exercised and sister States are willing to await the events of the next few days. San Francisco has never been waked up before on sanitary questions as she is now, and there are earnest men here that are backing a movement for reform which may astonish every one who is awaiting results.—Excerpt from fourth day's report of Dr. George F. Shrady.

THE so-called plague situation in this city has greatly simplified itself and if there was the slightest fear that San Francisco was to become the sufferer of an epidemic of the dread disease the apprehension has passed away. By common consent officials—local, State and Federal—declare that there is now not the slightest danger to the people of the city or State. Dr. George F. Shrady, who was induced to come to the city at the instance of the New York Herald and The Call, declares that it is almost safe to say that the plague is not here. He urges, in his fourth day's report, which is published this morning, that there is not the remotest occasion for other cities and States to fear San Francisco or to construe from the vigorous measures which are now being taken to cleanse Chinatown that the authorities believe that the plague is here or is threatening the city with its reappearance.

Dr. Shrady is still in close communication with the different health officials and will remain so until his investigation is over. He congratulates the authorities upon the energy they have displayed in quarantining Chinatown and in displaying a desire to cleanse the filth spot as effectively as possible. The famous expert declares that the Chinese quarter is filthy to a degree almost baffling description, and that as long as it remains it will exist as a menace of the most serious character to the people of the city.

He suggests the most radical measures to remove the dangers existing in the district, and says that if Chinatown is permitted to remain as it is it will be for San Francisco a blight and a disgrace which inevitably will harm the city.

In his report Dr. Shrady asks other States not to look upon the rigid quarantining of Chinatown as an admission that the plague is in San Francisco. The activity of the health authorities means nothing of the sort. It simply means that the people of San Francisco, through their officials, have awakened to the startling fact that they have a plague spot in their midst and that it must be removed whatever the cost may be.

The quarantine was maintained yesterday far more rigorously than it was the day before. The detail of police was doubled and no one was permitted to enter the district and leave it without submitting to inoculation. The health inspectors are conducting a thorough investigation and removing tons of refuse and filth, which will be burned. A gigantic sulphur fumigator is being used in the district in a house-to-house inspection. It is the purpose of the authorities to establish a detention hospital on Mission Rock for all persons who may be found in infected houses, and it may be that if another case of the disease is found the infected structures will be destroyed. United States Census Marshals will be allowed to enter the district, but they must first submit to inoculation.

The local Health Board held a meeting yesterday and discussed the vitally important matter of providing food for the people in the district. Nothing definite was done, as the question must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

SISTER STATES HAVE NO REASON FOR FEAR

Dr. Shrady Declares That Plague Is Practically Not Here, but Chinatown Is a Grave Menace.

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NO living case of plague yet seen in San Francisco. From my point of view, being a mere visitor here, this condition of things is somewhat difficult to explain. In this state of mind the people in San Francisco very generally share. They say if the plague is here why is not a real live example of it shown to us? One plausible reason for this condition of affairs is offered in the peculiar habits of secrecy of the Chinese regarding sickness and death among their numbers. There is a suspicion with some people with whom I have conversed that cases which might have occurred in the interim between May 15 and yesterday have been concealed and that there may be a regular train of successive cases which have not been regularly reported. I hardly think there is any foundation for this conjecture, in view of the reasonably thorough house-to-house inspection which has been enforced by the Health Board.

Another story is to the effect that the Chinamen are in the habit of burying their dead beneath their houses and in the various subterranean passages; but this, I am quite sure, is without any foundation whatever, for reasons which will afterward be stated. Certain it is that the inhabitants of Chinatown are afraid of the white doctor, and especially are they in terror of the members of the Health Board. The Chinese physician is uneducated, irresponsible, and has no license to practice; but in the vast majority of cases this individual is almost universally employed by his people. These native medicine men are not obliged by any special ordinance to report suspicious cases to the health authorities and are certainly not willing to do so of their own accord for obvious reasons. This partly explains the fact that the first notice to the authorities of a suspicious case is ordinarily emphasized by asking permission to bury the body. Then the Health Board takes the matter in charge. It was in this way that Dr. Wilson, the assistant city physician, discovered the cases already reported.

Now it appears to be the intention of the Health Board to make an autopsy on every body discovered. This does not entail any extraordinary labor, for I am informed that the mortality in Chinatown is very low; in fact, Dr. Wilson informed me the other day that there was only an average of about two deaths a day. This, considering the population, is a very low rate of mortality. In accordance with this intention named there was an autopsy made on a child this morning by Dr. Kellogg. Drs. Whitehouse, Kinyoun, Wilson, myself and several other medical men were present. The child apparently died without any definite diagnosis having been made before death. The illness was of a few days' duration, the little patient having been under the care of a Chinese female physician until seen by an American physician, who was in the employ of the Six Companies, just before death. This autopsy was made in the Morgue in the Chinese district. After a long period of waiting, word came that the father declined to have the body removed from the house to the Morgue and so vehement were his expressions of disapproval that at one time it was thought requisite to use compulsion by the police, but the medical attendant of the patient referred to succeeded in reconciling the differences, and the body was duly produced without any necessity for calling out an extra force for such purpose.

The glands from the groin had been already removed by the attending physician for the purpose of subsequent examination. I may state in passing that there is a great deal of apparent opposition to the methods of procedure of the Health Board on the part of the different Chinese societies, each of which appears to be represented by a medical adviser, but from a scientific point of view the more the truth is searched for, the better for the truth. There is no disposition, so far as I can see, either on the part of the Federal or the local health authorities, to dispute the right of any competent medical gentleman expressing his opinion upon the situation or the significance of the revelations from the specimens.

Now, as to the autopsy proper, it is well to say in a general way that nothing specially significant of plague was discovered in the gross appearances of the organs removed. Awaiting further developments I shall report later.

From what I had heard of the opposition of Chinese to the post-mortem examinations, it was hardly a surprising fact to me that an objection was made on the part of the father. The Chinese are very superstitious in regard to mutilation of the body, and look upon it as a desecration. One Chinaman informed me that it was a bar to the future happiness of the soul.

San Francisco is very much concerned about the quarantine question, and well she might be. At best it is a difficult problem to tackle. The merchants are most particularly anxious on the question, as it is easy to see that millions of dollars are involved in its proper and practical settlement. Texas has already quarantined against San Francisco. In conversing with Dr. Blunt, the health officer of that commonwealth who came here to look after the interests of his State, I learned that the mere report of the prevalence of plague in this city was enough to influence him to this radical and far-reaching measure. The fear on the part of the people of San Francisco is that other States, actuated by like and what appear to me to be senseless fears, may also follow suit. The fact is every precaution has been taken at this end of the line to guard against any possible spread of the disease. It might also be said that the plague is not here. Where is it? It is only the fact that the authorities here are straining a point to be on the right side, and I can testify to the fact that so far as the control of the disease is concerned it is perfect here. There is no cause for alarm on the part of outsiders. Chinatown is quarantined and that quarantine is for all practical purposes perfect. The house-to-house inspection is being conducted by a large corps of sanitary inspectors, the sewers are being flushed, houses fumigated and altogether the whole matter is as well in hand from a sanitary point of view as could reasonably be desired.

Every member of the Health Board is sufficiently alive to the necessity of cleaning up Chinatown. There has not been made the first objection to such a move on the part of any one of the citizens, even of those who are loth to believe that there is any necessity for so doing, merely on account of the so-called plague situation. The universal verdict is that Chinatown must be cleaned up, plague or no plague. It seems to me that the recent developments connected with the plague scare have almost been warranted in view of the fact which now promises such a desirable accomplishment in a district of the city liable to breed disease at any time.

I think I have in some descriptions of tours in this district made it plain that Chinatown is so notoriously filthy that almost any superlative could fit such a condition. In different sections it has different degrees of comparison in the down grade of appalling disgustfulness. The more you see of it the more you are impressed with the fact. The "heathen Chinee" plays his game with dirt, and he has not only a full hand, but carries his traditional extra card in his sleeve. He wastes for the Christians because he is willing to minister to their foolish whims. In this way he fosters his own personal indifference to cleanliness in his own hovel. The worst of all is that he believes he has an unquestioned prerogative in this direction, and stupidly and passively resists all missionary efforts to the contrary. His person may appear clean enough, but one would not wish to run the risk of taking pot luck with him in his own quarters.

Considering all things, it is a great wonder that plague or any other infectious disease has not swept Chinatown long ago with a tidal wave of the most awful mortality. All things being equal it is not unlikely that there may be a repetition of recent unpleasant experiences. It is yet a serious question whether or not we have heard of the last case from the recent invasion. These are certainly serious considerations for San Francisco and for all those who are directly or indirectly connected with its vast mercantile and maritime interests. She has in her very midst the most threatening of all contributing elements of plague propagation in the invitingly filthy condition of her Chinese quarter. In this latter place, if the plague should get a firm foothold, it will find its natural soil for the most widespread and awful dissemination. The lesson of the hour seems to be that no possible chances in any direction should be taken that it get any foothold whatever. As in case of the latter the plague or any other infectious disease is liable to spread everywhere like a progressive fire finding its available fuel.

The people of San Francisco no doubt thoroughly appreciate the condition of things and appear to be very much in earnest in resorting to any and every measure that may promise a solution of this very serious problem. It does not need reports from other sections to enforce this deep-rooted and earnest conviction. There is really more anxiety in this direction on the part of the citizens to make this whole matter right than would be believed unless seen and known. I am so thoroughly convinced of this that it seems necessary to ask those outside of San Francisco to suspend judgment. I am confident from what I know of the disposition on the part of the leading citizens here that it will all be right in time if only a little patience is exercised and sister States are willing to await the events of the next few days. It seems hardly necessary to elaborate the idea concerning the absolutely filthy condition of the district, but the good citizens of New York have no idea of unsanitary conditions of the worst dwellings of New York as compared with the better ones of Chinatown.

In my different tours through the dark, reeking subterranean passages of Chinatown I could not help wishing that our own Board of Health of New York could handle the situation for just one week. I confess a commendable pride as a citizen of New York in our own Health Department, that is only equal to that of the Fire Department, to which I referred yesterday. I am confident in the first place that if such a board had full sway in this city the conditions as at present existing would be absolutely impossible, and if they were found to exist there would be such an army of inspectors, such a house-to-house visitation as would astonish the most stolid and impassive Chinaman. I do not say this as any reflection against or upon the Board of Health of San Francisco, but cannot help wishing that the New York board was here for just one week; and then what would the citizens of New York do under similar circumstances as those prevailing in this city? Some of the citizens said: "Well, it is impossible." I have answered if you had our board here they would show you whether it was or not. It is only a question of means. The end is sure; but the citizens of San Francisco are thoroughly appreciating this fact, and I think we can afford to wait and see. San Francisco has never been waked up before on sanitary questions as she is now, and there are earnest men here that are backing a movement for reform which may astonish every one who is awaiting results. So I think it is perfectly warranted on the part of all concerned, here and elsewhere, to say that the real situation is not by any means so bad as it might otherwise be.

It might interest the many readers of the Herald and The Call to know that condensed reports of these special letters on the situation are being telegraphed back across the continent to several of the leading local papers. In one instance, in apparent violation of the copyright, the first letter almost in its entirety was reproduced here simultaneously with its publication in New York and in The Call, having undoubtedly been obtained from an early copy of the Eastern paper. This will give the Herald's and Call's readers an idea of the appreciation by other newspapers of the enterprise of the Herald and The Call. Copious abstracts of the reports are also reproduced in the Chinese publication that makes its appearance daily in Chinatown. In proof of this I was sent a copy of this Oriental sheet this morning duly marked. I looked wise as I held it in my hand, but the Celestial who brought it to me politely but quickly imparted the information that I was reading it upside down, at which I decided to defer until later an exploration of its hieroglyphical contents.

George F. Shrady

SUSTENANCE ASKED FOR QUARANTINED CHINESE

Six Companies Petition Health Board and the Supervisors Are Requested to Take Action.

THE Board of Health met late yesterday afternoon to consider a communication which it had received earlier in the day from the attorneys representing the Chinese Six Companies. The communication contained a specific request that some action be taken to provide the necessities of life for those who are imprisoned by reason of the quarantine established around the Chinese quarter. The text of the communication follows:

To the Honorable Board of Health, San Francisco, Cal.: Inasmuch as it is maintained by you that bubonic plague exists in certain portions of San Francisco commonly called Chinatown, and acting upon that assumption you have quarantined the entire district, we beg leave to call your attention to the fact that nothing has been done to prevent the spread of the disease in the district or among the people confined therein; and if it be a fact that plague does exist in certain houses in that district we insist that those houses be quarantined from the remainder of the district, and that houses in which people claimed to have been affected with plague have died be disinfected; that stringent and drastic sanitary measures be taken toward improving the sanitary condition of the entire district and that the entire district be disinfected with such disinfectants as may be deemed proper and effective to render the sanitary conditions good.

The district now under quarantine by order of your honorable board embraces twelve blocks, in which more than 10,000 people reside. You must recognize the added danger to them of confinement within that district unless the most effective measures of sanitation be promptly applied and a quarantine established for their protection against infected houses and persons if there be such in the district.

This, of course, for the present does not involve any question concerning the general quarantine of the district itself, concerning which action may hereafter be taken when the conditions existing are better understood. In addition to the foregoing suggestions we call attention to the fact that most of the people within the quarantined district are poor, dependent for their support upon their daily labor, from which they are now cut off by the quarantine order. We therefore suggest that the duty devolves upon the city and county of San Francisco to provide immediately the people in the quarantined district with necessary food. If there be any question as to this being the legal duty of the city we would be pleased to meet your legal representative and furnish him authorities. Respectfully,

REDDY, CAMPBELL & METSON,
MAGUIRE & GALLAGHER,
SAMUEL SHORTRIDGE,
ROBERT FERRAL,
JOHN BENNETT.

Judge Maguire addressed the board and said that out of considerations of humanity food should be provided for those who were prisoners in the quarantined section.

"The burden of caring for these poor unfortunates should fall on the city for whose benefit the quarantine is maintained," said Judge Maguire. "The authorities should do something for those who have been deprived of the means of earning their livelihood."

Attorney Bennett argued that the people might starve unless some measures were taken. He stated that there were ample authorities to show that the city was responsible for the sustenance of the quarantined people. He cited a case of a citizen in Allentown, Penn., whose house had been quarantined because one of his family had become afflicted with an infectious disease. The man put in a claim for the food consumed by his family dur-

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