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Ex-Officio Ins:

Medical Research

OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERVISOR

1913

Sept

States that in view of the distance it would be no feasible to send material for examination and on other hand such an examination is unnecessary. Submits suggestions for the treatment of the disease.

Continuation Paper

30877

W. Keith

Since 1907 cases

[been about to draft to East African Commission as to the treatment of c.s.f. patients, & anything necessary on this could go in Dr. Meyer's letter]

W.S.

~~Dr. Meyer.~~

Mr. Bottomley.

In view of the opinion of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund as expressed at the end of the minutes (25786) it would seem that independent investigation of the disease could not be recommended. It would appear to be desirable that a copy of this letter, and of our letter to the Institute, should be sent to the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate in the despatch which I gather you are about to send to him,

Yours with thanks.

A.B.K.

17th Sept.

Copy given to case 200 Sept 20 1913
Copy comes Trop Dis Bur. 6 Nov 9 1913

WT 21897-12
1913 12 AAEW

Subsequent Paper

35276

W. Botwinberg wd. it possible to refer to Phoenix letter to the

P. mo ?

T. J. H.

19. IX. 13

— i.e. through the gov.

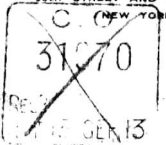
WAS 19.9.13 ctman

Dict

for draft in all 2 papers

Circulated to TAMU Committee 16 Oct 1913

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.
30TH STREET AND AVENUE A.



Number 25765/1913

274

September 3,
1913.

Handwritten initials

In reply to the letter of Mr. Henry Lambert dated August 11 and
 relating to the outbreak of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis in Nairobi in the
 British East Africa Protectorate, I desire to state that it seems hardly
 possible, in view of the great distance, to send material from patients to me
 for examination. I am confident that it would be destroyed in transit, and
 considered useless for study. On the other hand I am of the opinion that our
 present knowledge of the manner in which epidemic meningitis is conveyed
 renders it unnecessary to make a special examination of materials derived
 from this source.

Handwritten notes:
*
25766
25767

I suggest that if bacteriological facilities are at hand a
 study be made of the persons in immediate contact with the ill, since the
 indications are that the disease is carried and spread chiefly by means of
 human agents or contacts. In other countries the number of such carriers of
 the meningococcus, the bacterial cause of epidemic meningitis, has been many
 times that of the sick. In some instances as many as seventy per cent. of
 healthy persons in close relation with meningitis patients have been found to
 be carriers of the germ, and it is estimated that from five to ten times as
 many such carriers exist as actual cases of the disease arise.

On this account it is highly desirable that the sick be
 cared for in hospitals, so as to reduce contact with healthy persons. The
 meningococcus is contained for the most part in the secretions of the nose and
 mouth, and these secretions can be rendered harmless far more certainly in
 hospitals than in homes. Probably the carrying out of a plan of isolation of

* 25766: not printed

-10 1913

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1230 YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS
ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE

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the sick, and the discovery and temporary isolation of the healthy carriers of the infection will in large measure suffice to arrest the epidemic and prevent its further extension.

It remains to add that active cases of the disease should, of course, be treated with the anti-meningitis serum, which is now I believe procurable in England. I am of the opinion that it is being prepared by the Lister Institute in London, and it is doubtless also being prepared by commercial firms engaged in the manufacture of serum products. I am not actually informed, but I presume that the Burroughs and Wellcome firm prepare the serum.

I shall be very happy to be of further service in this matter.

Very respectfully yours,

Samuel D. Hays

Samuel D. Hays

The Right Honorable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
London, S.W., England.

ms / 31970

DRAFT.

W.S. Flesher

St. Petersburg

Li,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Allot 22/9/13
- Mr. ~~W. Stanley~~ 22/9/13
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

I am etc. to ask: the receipt
 of your letter of the 5th of Sept.
 relating to
~~the subject of~~ the outbreak
 of epidemic cerebro-spinal
 meningitis in Haïtï,
 & to thank you for your
 full & helpful reply to
 the letter which was
 addressed to you from this
 Dept on the subject

W.S.F. 27/12/13
 Ke. Th } done
 G.S.
 22/9/13
 Copy Proprie Mrs. J. ... 352x