

to make the by. P. M. O mistake
to show that we need this thing.

W. J. P.

Mr. Antrobus

Conceded as proposed - & send
copy of the concepⁿ to Prof. Simpson
for info? S. Haran is supposed to
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General Dept. should note what is said.

H. J. R.

15/11

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W. J. P. Jan 16
at once

Certainly
Be here
I think
wants a
walking
H. J. R.

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Governor's Office,

1382

Nairobi,

December 21st 1909.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 590.

(Incl. S.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith an account of the outbreak of plague which occurred at Kisumu between the months of June and October last by Dr. Haran who was in Medical charge of that town during this period, together with a letter from the Acting Principal Medical Officer.

I have much pleasure in expressing to Your Lordship my thorough appreciation of the excellent services rendered by Dr. Haran in dealing with this epidemic.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
public servant,

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies. (In the absence of H.E. the Governor
Downing Street,

LONDON, S.W.

5th December 1908.

1382

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for His Excellency's disposal Dr. Haran's narrative of the recent outbreak of plague at Kisumu.

In forwarding it I can add but little; for, owing to my return from leave of absence coinciding with the departure of the Honourable the Principal Medical Officer and the intimation of the removal of plague restrictions, my knowledge of the struggle is all retrospective.

It will be within His Excellency's recollection that in 1904-5 Kisumu received its first-to us - visitation of plague. Investigations then undertaken showed that beyond the memory of native tradition plague had existed in the district; and that, in particular Kisumu was regarded by them as especially noted for its occurrence. It is hardly possible to assign any given cause or origin for this 1908 outbreak. But, with the knowledge that the disease is endemic in the province; that the township, with its important railway and shipping interests, is situated by a chance that could not have been foreseen on a particularly virulent nidus of plague, we may safely conclude that the present epidemic is simply an active outburst of what is

always

Secretary,

to the Administration
Cairo.

always smouldering in the soil. That is to say, the conditions prevailing at Kisumu are peculiarly favourable to the preservation in the rats of the chronic form of rat plague.

For purposes of comparison I have tabulated the Statistics of the two outbreaks.

	1904-	1905.
Season of Occurrence	1st Quarter of year (Jan & Feb)	3rd & 4th Quarters (June - Oct 1905)
No. of cases	31	7
No. of deaths	20	42
Case mortality	64.5%	60.0%

It will thus be seen that though the number of cases were nearly three times as many, the case mortality was nearly 40 per cent less. This improvement was as Dr. Harlan points out, largely contributed to inter alia - by the inoculations of Haffkine's Serum. In the 1905 epidemic this serum was not obtainable.

As on the previous occasion, through traffic on the railway and on the Nyanza was maintained; this time for a period of 127 days, with the single occurrence of but one case on board a lake steamer. This happy result is, I think, significant of the harmonious working of the different departments concerned - Administrative, Railway, and Medical, - for without a loyal co-operation it could not

have been attained.

Considering the position and possibilities of issue, I think that the scheme now being put into execution of dividing up the township area into zones is the simplest and best that could have been devised for safeguarding the place. It will not, of course, guarantee the town against future epidemics but it will be a powerful factor in limiting and controlling the spread of epidemics should such unfortunately arise. On November 30th I inspected the process made in pushing forward the rear arrangement of the town. From zone "A" - that is to say the 4 mile wide strip marked out to enclose the town and confine it to definite limits - some 500 native huts had already been removed. By degrees it is intended that the whole of this strip will be placed under cultivation.

In conclusion it is unnecessary for me to bring to His Excellency's notice the valuable services rendered by Mr. Hasan, His Excellency having already given expression to His sense of His merits. It may however be permitted me to record, from previous knowledge of working with this officer under similar circumstances, my gratification at the recognition of his work.

I would furthermore desire to bring to His Excellency's notice, No. 1st grade Hospital Assistant Hira Mand, whose useful and the assistance

he rendered during the epidemic was most valuable
to Dr. Haran.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

S.D. K. L.

Acting Principal Medical Officer

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE OUTBREAK
OF PLAGUE AT KISUMU
JUNE - OCTOBER 1908.

With the terminus of the Uganda Railway situated in an area which before now has been visited by Plague it is but natural to expect that occasional recrudescences of the disease should be liable to manifest themselves. Local Administrative authorities in various parts of the country at large, in isolated areas would seem to be but a few square miles in extent and is practically isolated within the generous limits of the present township of Kisumu.

During the last few years the population of this settlement has increased and continuous efforts have been made towards improvement of the sanitary conditions. Such efforts, however, must be furnished on a truly generous financial scale and the unemployed population limited to a figure consistent with absolute and complete sanitary control. Indeed it is not extravagant to suppose that a better and cheaper result could be obtained by a transference of the official headquarters of the Administration to a healthy part of the province and a limitation of the "camp" of Kisumu to those concerned with the working of the Railway, together with a Regiment, a detachment of Police and two or three necessary stores. It is however to be feared that Government, having already spent so much money in the cause, will be unable to contemplate such a proposal so that it only remains to wish certain suggestions - some of which are already being put into effect - at the conclusion of the present report.

During the month of May of the present year some occupants of the Indian Bazaar, noticing the presence of

sundry dead rats within their houses, quietly closed their doors and betook themselves to Kibos, a small Afro-Asiatic settlement some six miles distant. This quiet migration did not come to the notice of the authorities as no one thought fit to inform them, apart from the fact that such temporary departures are frequent owing to divers trading interests in other places. On the 7th of June, however there was reported the death of an Indian in the Bazaar following on a somewhat brief illness. This was rapidly followed by a case in the adjoining Loco Landhi and, later, by a series of cases in the neighbouring Uganda village. The disease next attacked the Police lines and two further cases were at the same time credited to the Indian Bazaar. Following this, the extent to which the infection had spread was demonstrated by fatalities among the Cotton Corporation employes, and the occupants of the Jail, Railway Landhis, Bazaar, Railway Subordinate Quarters, and Nubian huts. A lull of some fourteen days now ensued and, no cases having been reported or found on inspection, the township was declared free of plague and the restrictions in traffic which had been rendered imperative by its presence were removed.

This satisfactory position of affairs, however, was but temporary and a few days subsequently it was again found necessary to declare Kisumu infected owing to the reappearance of the disease in a village behind the Native Market, three quarters of a mile or so distant from the Railway terminus but well within the township limits. The maintenance Landhis, European Quarters, the villages behind the Native Market and the Swahili Location together with the Swahili Village itself next contributed their quota of sick. Following on these manifestations, the disease now attacked the Mijikenda Village of Mwanza and, but for its prompt eradication and the inoculation of its susceptible inhabitants - some 200 souls - the greater number would have

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probably succeeded. Single cases now appeared in various parts of the town, punctuated by gradually increasing intervals of time, and a complication ensued in the shape of two sporadic cases at Ogada's, a village some two and half hours distant from Kisumu.

The final admission to hospital was on the 13th of October and Kisumu was declared free from infection twelve days later.

During the prevalence of the epidemic some 5,495 persons were inoculated with Haffkines Prophylactic, a procedure which manifestly checked the incidence of the disease. Immediate isolation of the sick - or burial of the dead subsequent to examination - together with the placing of the contacts in a suitable place under observation were measures invariably carried out. In some instances the term "contact" was applied to the inhabitants of the entire village from which the sick person came and with the happiest result. The infected house was disinfected when possible, otherwise - as in the case of guest huts - it was burnt. When the epidemic had reached the stage of single cases - principally pneumonic - in different areas, the selective contact principle was adopted with a view to checking social wanderings on the part of natives especially at night and such persons as harlots, tambore sellers, and women whose husbands were away were rendered limited as to their movements.

This proceeding tended to prevent accumulation of persons in any one house and thus placed an obstacle against wholesale infection by those who might be in the very early stage of pneumonic plague.

All contacts when placed in camp were washed in Oxolin Solution, their belongings subjected to the same process, and the various groups housed in different huts and tents.

They were, furthermore, inoculated unless previously vaccinated.

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All merchandise leaving the inspected area was fumigated at the point of departure unless it was considered that such process was inadvisable. Vessels desiring to leave for other places were either inoculated and inspected after seven days interval, or were isolated for a stated period.

A campaign against rats was likewise undertaken but with limited success.

During the interval between the two periods of quarantine, a fatal case of plague was reported from Kisumu on the 11th. The arrival of the steamer at Kisumu the day after the report of the case all inoculated and placed under observation and the vessel and cargo subjected to a process of disinfection. It is suspected that the sick man contracted the infection while he lay at Kisumu but no definite proof is available in support of this.

The through traffic of the Railway was maintained during this period by means of isolating the pier under which the steamer lay and a number of porters sufficient to deal with the cargo involved. This arrangement seemed to meet with the requirements of the service.

In conclusion I have the honour to state that, in consultation with the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Aisworth, the township of Kisumu has been divided into three zones or areas, and rules have been framed with the intention of controlling the resident population therein (see Official Gazette 15th November 1918). These measures should have the effect of limiting such inhabitants to the Government and Commercial classes and afford a check to the self-detrimental action of the primitive native. Towns would seem to exercise an attraction and it is scarcely unusual to observe - with due deference, of course, to the better informed - that more than one African who has partaken of sugar and rice is not always eager to return to his village and the tribal discipline thereof. When he does so it is not invariably with a clean Bill of Health, a condition of affairs which is manifestly to the detriment of his fellow villagers. Apart from

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this the presence in Kisumu of friends and relations of Native workers must be regarded as additional matters worth in times of epidemic disease.

As regards the matter I consider that the future layout of plots should be confined to those who have the necessary means of erecting that proper houses and having the necessary spaces between their dwellings and those of their neighbours. The existing plots should be retained but the sub-letting of portions of plots discouraged.

A systematic and continual campaign against rats should be maintained in the future and should form an essential feature of the sanitary administration of the Township. Should these measures be pursued with vigour and persistence there can be no doubt that the future of Kisumu, so far as Plague is concerned, will be less gloomy than heretofore. Success, however, is to be obtained only by continuous co-operation of all concerned and by the adoption of the axiom that the safety of the whole is to be preferred to the welfare of the individual - even though the presence of the latter may present a superficial semblance of economic gain.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a list showing names and deaths according to tribes and location together with sundry other statistics which may be of interest.

W. H. H. H.
 Medical Officer.

PARTICULARS OF THE OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE IN KISumu JUNE - OCTOBER 1908.

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(A)

Distribution of Cases and Deaths according to Locality.

Locality	Cases	Deaths
Bazaar	16	0
Mganda Village	0	8
Police Lines	12	11
Jail	1	•
Railway Subordinate Quarters	1	1
Village behind Fleming's Market	0	0
Market Villages	10	15
Swahili-tribe Village	1	1
Village behind Swahili-tribe Village		3
Railway Station	8	5
Civil Hospital	1	1
Mr. Price's (S.F.A. Convalescent)	2	2
Mr. Wardle's	1	•
Scoti Camp (?)	1	1
Mganda's	2	0

The locality of the cases occurring in these places is really doubtful as the patients prior to illness either slept out or wandered about other parts of the town visiting their friends.

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(II)

PARTICULARS OF THE OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE IN KISUMU JUNE - OCTOBER 1908

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Distribution of Cases and Deaths according to Tribe.

Tribe	Cases	Deaths
Waganda	15	10
Wasoga	7	6
Mavirondo	17	15
Mabians	16	16
Indians	10	4
Georose	4	3
Karasia	1	.
Maryawendi		3
Wasuhili	1	1
Nandi	9	3
Yumbwa	1	1
Wayoro	3	1
Kikuyu	1	.

(C)

Total Cases	70
Total Deaths	59
Deaths from Pneumonic type	42

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(D)

Number of Inoculations performed 3,495.

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(E)

Contacts:-

Close Contacts	316
Area Contacts	451
Isolation prior to departure from Infected Area	128

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Part Florence, }
30th Oct. 1909. }

H. H. H. H.
Medical Officer

for 1382/ S.A.P.
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May 21/09

Sir,

I have the pleasure to ack. the recd. of your
resp. no. 10 of the 9th Dec. last,
reporting on the outbreak of plague which
occurred at Kisumu between the months
of June and Oct. last.

I am glad with satisfaction that
you have shown your appreciation of the
services rendered by Dr. Haran in dealing
with this epidemic.

I would point out that the Acting
Principal Medical Officer, in his letter
concerning Dr. Haran's report, gives the
number of deaths wrongly as 42, instead
of 62, the figure given by Dr. Haran, and
in consequence makes the case mortality
figures wholly incommensurate with that of
the outbreak in 1901-3.