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EAST AFR. PROT.  
1882 <sup>12</sup>/<sub>13</sub>

C.O.  
1882  
RECEIVED  
REGD 18 JAN 13

Number 887  
Field  
Date 1912  
December  
Previous Paper

SMALLPOX AT MOMBASA

Submits report by the M.O.H., Mombasa. Regrets special communication was not sent. The disease is endemic in the Prot. Presumes notification should only be sent in the case of serious outbreaks. Refers to difficulties in medical investigations where particular sections of the community are concerned. The housing conditions in certain localities are undoubtedly favourable to the dissemination of epidemic disease.

Dr. J. Anderson. I think that ~~it would be better to~~ the outbreak was sufficiently ~~large~~ local authorities ~~ought~~ to call attention to it - 282 cases + 57 deaths; but there seems to be nothing more to be done now.  
Put by?  
H. J. R  
207

To Govt 94  
To Secy 123  
To Gen 72  
To SA 231  
To NA 160  
To Cons 14th 1912

Copy above to Govt  
To Govt 248  
Mombasa 150  
Nyasaland 118  
Siam 33  
To Govt 127  
Nyasaland 200  
Mombasa 101  
Copy sent to Govt 79  
to H.A. for record

Cloned  
11/13

Circulated in print to TAMS Committee 17 Feb 1913

15895

20795 13

Mr. Fiddian

Extract from minutes of 50th meeting of the T.M.S.

Committee, 4 March 1913 :-

"In connection with a despatch from the Governor of the  
S.A.P. on the outbreak of smallpox at Mombasa, Sir William  
Leishman asked that enquiry might be made into the alleged  
failure of the protective power of vaccine lymph"

Ref  
12/3

Mr Fiddian

A reference to Dr G.P.H. Latham's report on  
his visit to Tanganyika [Print 12355 G.C. 1912 page 19]  
will show that the Germans experience in that "as  
regards the immunity conferred by vaccination, it has  
been found to persist for scarcely more than four  
years" this is locally prepared vaccine lymph being  
98% of success

To collect reliable data on this point will  
take time but it is open up a line of enquiry which  
all our Medical Officers in Africa might help to  
clear up

T.F.S.M.  
18. 3. 13

~~Mr. G. H. S.~~  
Mr. Shickley  
Mr. Read

I think we might well call the  
attention of Gas throughout T.M.S. to these two  
passages, ask them to have the point investigated

27/3 AF 27

C.S. 29/13

Circulated with all replies, to T.M.S. Sec 19 Feb 1914

at mee.  
H. J. R.  
29/14

C.O.  
1882  
REC<sup>d</sup>  
RFG<sup>d</sup> 18 JAN 13

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

December 23rd, 1912.

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 887.



Sir,

In reply to your despatch No. 759 of the 14th ultimo I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of report by the Medical Officer of Health, Mombasa, on the outbreak of smallpox in that town, with covering remarks by the Principal Medical Officer.

2. I greatly regret to learn from your answer to Sir Hildred Carlile in the House of Commons that the occurrence of this disease was not made the subject of a special communication.

3. Smallpox is, as a matter of fact, endemic in the Protectorate and isolated cases occur from time to time in the various urban centres. Such was the case in Mombasa and the medical authorities, beyond taking the usual precautions, appear to have attached no great importance

*11.6.12*  
*35009*

M.O.  
number 17th

to do.  
number 6th

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

\* No. 35009

*l. San*

*14847-40*

importance to the progress of the disease, which was not at first rapid, until the month of August, when a large increase in the number of patients was observed.

4. Very shortly afterwards plague made its appearance in the town and its presence was reported to you in due course. I am afraid that the existence of this graver danger somewhat obscured the question of smallpox and in consequence no specific reference was made to the latter, beyond the notification of the application of the Vaccination Ordinance to Mombasa, which was published in the Official Gazette of September 1st and subsequently forwarded to your office in the ordinary way.

5. I presume that it is only in the case of serious outbreaks that you would wish to be advised by telegram or despatch and I admit that from the information before me the disease appears in August last to have attained proportions which called for a special communication. It was, however, kept well under control by the medical officers in charge, the population as a whole responded without demur to the precautionary measures taken, and as a result the town should be comparatively free from smallpox for some years to come.

6. Throughout the whole period covered by the outbreak there was nothing which could be

termed

termed serious native agitation. There is always a certain difficulty in conducting medical examinations or autopsies where particular sections of the community are concerned, and I have alluded to this subject in my despatch No. 749 of the 24th of October<sup>\*</sup> asking inter alia for the appointment of a special nurse to assist in cases where religious susceptibilities would be outraged by the ministrations of a male practitioner. Such protests as were made were not, however, of a very violent character, and did not, in spite of most unjustifiable exaggeration in the local Press, cause the local Government any uneasiness.

7. I have discussed the sanitary condition of Mombasa in my general despatch on the subject. It is not, I need scarcely say, by any means perfect and the housing conditions in certain localities are undoubtedly favourable to the dissemination of epidemic disease. I do not think, however, that it would be of much practical use to go more deeply into the matter pending the formation of the Sanitary Department, which will naturally deal with this question as soon after its inception as may be practicable.

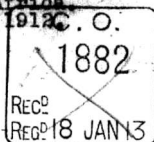
I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your humble, obedient servant,

*H. Conway Brijed*

In Despatch No. 187 of Dec. 23 1912



Office of the  
Principal Medical Officer  
Nairobi, E. E. Africa.  
14th December 1912. O.



Sir,

In compliance with the request contained in your urgent memo No. S1578, dated the 4th December 1912, I have the honour to forward a report on the outbreak of Smallpox at Mombasa which has been compiled by the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

In dealing with the outbreak an amount of difficulty has been encountered owing to the anæsthetic and fatalistic manner in which the disease is regarded by many of the inhabitants as well as to the fact that several of the earlier cases were not reported. A further drawback was the absence of proper accommodation for the reception of the sick and the probably consequent objection made by them to leave their dwellings.

The work of erection of suitable buildings is now in progress at the new site and, with their completion, it will be possible for the Health Office to insist on removing sufferers from epidemic disease in the future. Sections 269 and 270 of the Indian Penal Code provide that an accused person should know or have reason to believe that a negligent or malignant act on his part is likely to spread the infection of disease.

Yours faithfully,  
Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

disease dangerous to life. It would appear 635  
from this that a plea of ignorance constitutes  
a sufficient defence. Should such be so, I  
submit, that further power should be made avail-  
able as concealment of dangerous infectious  
disease can but only result in injury to the  
community in general and additional expense to  
Government.

*etc*  
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*A. D. K. V. S.*

Principal Medic-al Officer.

No. C.D.V/76.

Health Office,  
Mombasa, 6th December 1912.

To,

The Principal Medical Officer,  
Nairobi.

Sir,

In accordance with orders contained in your wire No. 602 dated the 5th December 1912, I have the honour to forward a report upon the out-break of small-pox in Mombasa which continues at present.

I am unfortunately only in a position to speak of the latter part from personal experience as three Medical Officers have hitherto performed the duties of Medical Officer of Health during this epidemic.

I am therefore apart from numbers only able to state what I understand to be the facts of the case.

The first case was found on 5.3.12 and the second on 6.3.12. It was discovered that the sister of the second case had just recovered from small-pox which had been concealed. She, a Badala, had been brought, it is stated, from Merka, via Aden, where she was embarked in a German steamer. She had suffered from small-pox during the voyage and the disease had been successfully concealed under cover of the Furdah.

Five



Five cases were discovered in March four of whom were Indian and one was a Kikuyu.

All these cases were removed to the ~~island~~ shed on the mainland which has for so long gone by the title of an "Isolation Hospital".

Vaccination was vigorously carried out and in the month of March, 4045 persons being operated upon.

Dr. Leys reported to me as Acting Bacteriologist at the time that these vaccinations had most satisfactory results.

There was an apparent break between 23.3.12 and 4.5.12 due in all probability more to ~~human~~ concealment than absence of the disease.

Two cases were isolated in May, one in a house in the town, as it was felt that the accommodation in the Isolation Hospital was inadequate.

One case absconded from hospital the day after admission. As there was no fence this has frequently happened.

In June only one case was discovered.

In July there were nine cases and by this time the disease had got among the up country labourers a large number of which useful class has died.

The Township of Mombasa was declared infected with small-pox on 29th August owing to a large increase in the number of cases and to the fact that such public opinion as exists in Mombasa was aroused by alarm.

The vaccination ordinance was applied to Mombasa on September 1st. In the last few days of August 3692 vaccinations were done by this office.

In September 18184 persons were operated upon.

At the present time not only is the Township of Mombasa very well vaccinated but also a very large proportion of the population of the surrounding country; I shall refer to this matter again.

As the numbers of vaccinated increased the cases of small-pox began to fall off with of course the necessary interval of incubation until at present there are only a few cases, three, four or five per week.

According to their lights the Arab and Native communities, understanding inoculation, have given this office cheerful help in the matter of vaccination and prevention.

The Asiatics on the other hand imported the disease and concealed it until ~~it~~ it has spread beyond their own community causing the death of a large number of people and have throughout, with some few exceptions, by passive resistance and stupid apathy done their worst to prolong the epidemic.

It would be advisable that all Asiatics destined for this port should be vaccinated at their port of departure. Another matter that should be very sternly impressed upon all is that they must at once report cases of contagious disease.

Failure so to do should be met with exemplary punishment if it is intended that this port should maintain a decent reputation along the coast.

Since the outbreak of the disease 31,823 vaccinations have been performed at this office.

The private practitioners have in some cases given great help and Dr. Shepherd of the C.M.S. has done very much in our assistance.

Including

Including the prison and native hospital and all sources the ~~grand~~ total cannot be far short of 36,000.

639

It must be remembered that between 20 and 25% of the inhabitants have suffered from the disease.

It is "estimated" that the population of this Township is 26,000 souls.

These figures give a total of those who have passed through our hands of some 45,000.

An allowance must be made for up-country labourers. And it must not be forgotten that many who were vaccinated here came from without the Township.

Also there are still a few susceptible persons within the Township.

Moreover a no inconsiderable number are still being vaccinated; the figure for November was 1991.

In my mind there is no doubt, though data are few and difficult to arrange, that vaccination practically unaided has killed this epidemic.

Though a few more dropping cases will occur until our system of intelligence and isolation are more complete; still small-pox in epidemic form cannot make head in this town for some years to come and if, when this outbreak is finished, we are supplied with a regular vaccinating staff to ~~visit~~ take house to house vaccination and re-vaccination we should be safer than the county of London.

One serious danger is the shifting population of up country labourers.

When they come in large consignments as to reputable employers there is no difficulty in dealing with them; but many straggle down the line and arrive here in a reduced semi-starved condition, and are most liable to the attack of disease.

There

There should be provision made which should fix upon the employer the responsibility for seeing that his employees are vaccinated if susceptible.

Neglect should be punishable with severity.

This is yet another argument for labour compounds and a more fatherly treatment of these wretched and ignorant waifs.

The presence in the Town of a large number of these unprotected up country natives and a rising generation of the inhabitants, also unprotected for small-pox has not been prevalent since 1899 is the chief factor in determining this severe outbreak.

Up-country natives should be vaccinated before being despatched to Mombasa.

Though I am of opinion that vaccination here does not give the same measure of safety as it does at home it is clearly proven that it has a most powerful effect when applied wholesale as a wall against the advancing disease, in checking if not in stopping it.

Still it has never been maintained of recent years that vaccination alone was sufficient to cope with an epidemic.

The effect in modifying variola has been most striking.

In this connection it must not be forgotten that vaccination is submitted to the most severe trial here for the people do not fly infection but rather prefer to rub it in.

The total number of cases to 30th November 1912 was 283.

The total number of deaths to 30th November 1912 was 51.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
R. Small

L.R.C.P. (Lond.) M.R.C.S. (Eng) D.P.H. (Lond.)  
D.T.M. & H. (Camb.)

15

Gov S. A. P.  
1882  
12-13

Print

Sq



1 April 1913

RAFT.

AP No. 248

Gov. Belfield

MINUTE.

- Mr. Fiddian 29/3
- Mr. Read 31
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Sir,

I have the hon. to inform you that your des. No. 887 of the 23rd of Dec. last, forwarding copy of a report by the M.O.H. at Mombasa on the outbreak of smallpox in that town, was

16 March 1914

150 } Care 1 April  
118 }  
32 }  
150 }  
118 }  
32 }

communicated to the Advy Med. Sec. C'ty. of that at a recent meeting <sup>(of the C'ty)</sup> of attention was drawn to Dr. Small's ~~at~~ <sup>opinion</sup> ~~expression of~~

opinion that vaccination does not give the same measure of safety in ~~the~~ <sup>(the)</sup> as in this country.

2. Enclose an extract from a report by Dr. G.E.H. LeFerm, of the W. A. Med. Staff

Par. 67 (as marked),  
page 193, A.F. No. 984

3 dfts

on a visit to England,  
from which it would appear that  
the Govt of that dependency has  
experienced a similar difficulty, the  
ministry concerned by the locally prepared  
lymph being found to persist for  
scarcely more than four years

3. The question whether

the protective power of vaccine  
lymph is weakened by the conditions  
of Trop. Af. is already one  
of impatience & I should be glad

climatic or other

if you would instruct your  
medical advisers to investigate  
the matter locally, as far as it is  
practicable to do so, & report in  
due course. A similar request  
is being addressed to the other  
British administrations in Trop.

Af.



Sip G + 1 as well

Arca 24445 reg -  
36384 Nyasa

Raw

Mar '13  
1 April

and No. 32  
Byatt  
ganda No 150  
Gov Jackson  
Hand No. 118  
O.A.C.

Frg/s

to Recd 31 8

~~(Handwritten signature)~~  
~~Change made in form on  
page of form of 1882  
12-13~~

Sir,

I have the hon. to enclose  
a copy of a despatch which I have  
addressed to the Govt of the  
S. A. P., on the subject of a  
reported ~~failure~~ <sup>weakness</sup> in the  
protective power of vaccine  
lymph in that dependency  
& elsewhere in Trop. Af. ~~which~~  
~~It is reported with the foreign~~  
~~in which it is well known~~  
~~the vaccine referred to is~~  
~~my despatch.~~

2. I have to request  
that you will give instructions  
to your medical advisers  
in the sense indicated in  
the last part of the my despatch.

to Mr. Belfield, & report the result in due course.

D. MAR

Ga EAP  
1882  
12-13

Print  
Co + 100  
1 April 1913

DRAFT.

No. 194  
H Clifford  
231  
No. 123  
Merrill  
MINUTE.

Mr. Fiddian 29/3  
Mr. Ellis 3/3  
Mr. Shackley 3/3  
Mr. G. Fiddes.

Mr. H. Just.  
Mr. J. Anderson.  
Lord Emmott.  
Mr. Harcourt.

- (1) 4, 3, 25
- (2) 37, 9, 60
- (3) 24, 56, 9
- (4) 35, 37, 5
- (5) 18, 19, 2, 7

3/3/13

Copy to Belfield 21 June 1913

Sir,  
With ref. to par. 67 of Dr. G.E.H. Lefrain's report on his visit to Togoland, which was forwarded in Major Bryan's despatch No. 210 of the 1st of April, 1912,

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| 2 | copies of which were enclosed in my despatch No. 637 of the 15th of July last. | 393 |
| 3 | do do  | 207 |
| 4 | do do  | 159 |
| 5 | do do  |     |

I have the honor to inform you that in the course of a report on a recent outbreak of small pox at Homboro the M.O.H. of that town expresses the opinion that vaccination in the E.A.P. does not give the same measure of safety as it does in this country.

2. In view of the experience of the German authorities in Togoland, as

3 dfts

reported by Dr. Le Fanu, it becomes  
important to investigate the question  
whether there is any weakening in  
the protective power of vaccine  
by <sup>the climatic conditions</sup> under Prof. At.  
the conditions. I should be glad if

you would instruct your medical  
& sanitary advisers to ~~investigate~~ <sup>examine</sup>  
the matter locally, as far as it  
is practicable to do so, &  
report in due course. A similar  
request is being addressed to the  
other British administrations -  
Prof At

that the immunity  
conferred by vaccine  
scarcely persists  
more than four

(Signed) COURT,