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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

Circular—Yellow fever and mosquitoes.

The following circular emphasizing the practical bearings of the mosquito theory of the causation of yellow fever has been prepared for circulation in infected and menaced territory:

How to prevent yellow fever—No mosquitoes, no yellow fever.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, July 31, 1905.

NOTE.—The measures herein mentioned were recommended by the Army Medical Board of 1900, and have been indorsed by the American Public Health Association and by the First International Sanitary Convention of American Republics. They have also been justified by the experiences and observations of the two working parties of the Yellow Fever Institute of this Bureau in Veracruz, Mexico, and by the commission of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, France, operating in Rio Janeiro, Brazil. The measures have been tested successfully on a large scale in Habana, Cuba, and during the yellow-fever epidemic at Laredo, Tex., in 1903:

The infection of yellow fever is carried by mosquitoes, and by no other means is the infection spread.

Persons take the disease by being bitten by mosquitoes that have previously bitten a yellow-fever patient.

The mosquitoes to become infected must bite a yellow-fever patient during the first three days of his attack. These first three days, therefore, are the most important time for preventing the access of mosquitoes to a fever patient.

It is often difficult to decide during the first three days whether a patient has yellow fever; hence the necessity in threatened communities of placing a mosquito bar immediately around every patient who has fever of any kind, and for three days at least.

FACTS ABOUT SCREENING.

1. The netting used should have meshes fine enough to prevent the passage of mosquitoes (at least 18 to 20 meshes to the inch).

2. It is important to screen the windows and doors of the house. It is doubly important to screen the beds of fever patients.

3. Mosquitoes can bite through mosquito nets when any part of the patient's body is in contact with the netting.

4. Frequent examinations should be made to see that there are no torn places in the netting or that no mosquitoes have found a lodgment inside.

5. The netting should be well tucked in to keep mosquitoes from entering.
6. If mosquitoes are found within the netting they should be killed inside and not merely driven or shaken out.
7. All cases of fever should be promptly reported to the local health officer. Awaiting his arrival they should be covered with a mosquito bar.

FACTS BEARING ON MOSQUITO DESTRUCTION.

1. Mosquitoes live in the vicinity in which they breed. They do not often fly a long distance.
2. Mosquitoes breed only in water—usually in artificial collections of fresh water.
3. The young mosquito, or wriggler, lives in water at least seven to twelve days.
4. Although the wrigglers live in water, they must come frequently to the surface to breathe.
5. Coal oil on the surface of the water prevents the wrigglers from breeding.
6. Destroy the breeding places and you will destroy the mosquitoes.
7. Empty the water from all tubs, buckets, cans, flowerpots, and vases once every forty eight hours.
8. Fill or drain all pools, ditches, unfilled postholes, and the like.
9. Change regularly every day all water needed in chicken coops, kennels, etc.
10. Treat with coal oil all standing water which can not be screened or drained (1 ounce of oil will cover 15 square feet of surface). The oil does not affect the water for use if the water is drawn from below.
11. Where oil is applied to standing water it must be distributed evenly over the surface.
12. Put fine wire netting over cisterns, wells, and tanks of water in everyday use.
13. Places in which it is undesirable to put oil, such as watering troughs for stock, lily ponds, and so forth, can be kept free from wrigglers by putting in gold fish or minnows.
14. Clean away all weeds, grass, and bushes about ditches, ponds, and other possible breeding places, since these afford a hiding place for the mosquitoes.
15. Clean up vacant lots and back yards of all cans, tins, bottles, and rubbish.
16. First do away with, or treat, all places where mosquitoes are known to breed, and then begin to work on places where they might breed.
17. Inspect and treat with coal oil gutters, culverts, ditches, man-holes, catching basins, etc., along the roadside. Manhole covers should be screened.
18. Houses should be cleared of mosquitoes by burning 1 pound of insect powder or 2 pounds of sulphur to 1,000 cubic feet of space. The mosquitoes will fall to the floor and should be collected and burned.
19. Success in mosquito destruction depends upon the cooperation of the members of the entire community.
20. While the infection of yellow fever is carried by a single species of mosquito (the *Stegomyia*), to insure its destruction it is necessary to destroy all mosquitoes.

In places liable to yellow fever both individuals and communities have an effective method of protecting themselves, as indicated above. Use the mosquito bar at once over all cases of fever until the danger from yellow fever has passed. Destroy all mosquitoes.

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

Yellow fever in New Orleans, La.

The total number of cases and deaths officially reported is as follows: Cases, 308; deaths, 59 from July 21 to August 3.

For July 28, 21 new cases, with 3 deaths, were reported. On July 27 and 28, 1,918 houses were inspected and 19 cases investigated. More than 2,000 cisterns and tanks were oiled. On July 29, 29 new cases, with 7 deaths, were reported. Two cases occurred at a focus supposed to be obliterated. Sanitation of the entire city and destruction of infected mosquitoes are being urged.

On July 31 Surgeon White reported 27 new cases with 3 deaths and 2 new foci.

Surgeon Wasdin arrived at Gulfport, Miss., July 26, where a committee of citizens of Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Scranton, and Holly Springs requested the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service to institute a patrol of the Gulf and Ship Island Channel, Rigolets Pass, and Chef Menteur inlet, with a view to perfecting the quarantine against New Orleans. Several boats, it was said, would be required for this purpose.

Assistant Surgeon Berry was ordered, July 27, to report to Surgeon White for duty in New Orleans. Pharmacist Morris was assigned to duty under Surgeon Guitéras at the same place.

From Gulfport Surgeon Wasdin reported, July 27, that conditions were good and that Pass Christian was being put in sanitary condition; also that the governor of Mississippi had requested that an inspection of Hattiesburg be made. The inspection was authorized. It will be remembered that Hattiesburg was infected with yellow fever in October, 1898.

In response to a telegram, July 27, from Dr. Heber Jones, president of the Board of Health of Memphis, requesting information relative to the yellow fever situation, a telegram was sent stating that yellow fever had been officially declared present in New Orleans only, but that one case was reported from Tampa, Fla. This case was a refugee from New Orleans. The patient was isolated and screened and was convalescent at the date of the report. Information relative to this case was sent also to Doctor Goldthwaite, health officer at Mobile.

July 28, Dr. J. A. Albright, secretary of the State board of health of Tennessee, was informed that train inspection was in force on all trains leaving New Orleans, and that detention camps had been arranged to cover each line. Acting Assistant Surgeon Watkins, at