

Plague at Hong Kong

Publication/Creation

1894

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The Plague in Hong Kong.
Letter No IV

89186

Treatment. From the

that the disease
amenable to ~~the~~
treatment. The
~~It~~ a crisis so in
became ~~so~~ affli
so early in the de
~~and came with~~
intervened so in
such terrible way
but little time

was available in any
~~one~~ ~~method~~ of treatment.
except in heroic form.

The Chinese treatment was
according to their own Confession
unsatisfactory in the extreme.
They believe that 97 per cent
of the Chinese attacked & treated
by them died. This is interesting
as we know it shows that
no specific, no even ~~some~~
alleviating, remedy is known
amongst the Chinese in Punnan
or Pakhoi where the disease
is endemic.

One Chinaman ~~etc~~ in Hong Kong
prepared a powder
~~derived from~~ ~~drug~~ which he claimed
to be curative. It contained
53 separate drugs, pearl powder
being the chief ^{ingredient} ^{which is repeated} quantity, & in
expense.

In the Government Civil Hospital
& in the Alice Memorial Hospital



ACCESSION NUMBER

89186

PRESS MARK

1483

The Plague in
Letter No IV

Treatment. From the first it was seen that the disease ~~was~~ ^{was} not amenable to ~~treatment~~ ^{any} known treatment. The symptoms ~~to~~ ^{reached} a crisis so suddenly, the patients became so afflicted mentally so early in the disease ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~and came with such~~ ^{usually} death intervened so unexpectedly with such terrible rapidity that but little time & opportunity was available to test any ~~one~~ ^{line} ~~method~~ of treatment except in heroic form.

The Chinese treatment was according to their own Confession unsatisfactory in the extreme. They believe that 97 per cent of the Chinese attacked & treated by them died. This is interesting as, ~~we know~~ it shows that no specific, nor even ~~some~~ ^{any} alleviating, remedy is known amongst the Chinese in Pusan or Pakhoi where the disease is endemic.

One Chinaman ~~etc~~ in Hongkong prepared a powder ~~which he claimed~~ ^{which he claimed} to be curative. It contained 53 separate drugs, pearl powder being the chief ^{ingredient} ⁱⁿ quantity, & in expense.

In the Government Civil Hospital & in the Alia Memorial Hospital

this
In the narrow strip of sea, between
the two, which constitutes ^{the} harbours
of well nigh 5 mile long lie thousands
of Chinese boats of all sizes from
the large sailing junk to the small
sampan. On each boat dwell a
family of from four to eight
persons; when I say dwell I say
so advisedly for the boat is their
only home ~~that the sea there~~
~~only water "fatted"~~ ~~there~~ On
it, amidst space children are born
live ~~there~~ ^{live then} live, & die. ~~there~~ ^{they} ~~are~~
~~with the sea & they only dwell~~
~~with the sea & they only dwell~~
~~their~~ ~~for~~ attempt of occupying the
earth is when they are carried
ashore to lie with the bones of their
ancestors. This boat population,
as they are officially called, & number
from 7000 to 10,000, keep up a
constant communication between
the Canton province ^{with the mainland} & the ~~city~~ ^{city}
~~city~~ city of Victoria & the Chinese village
^{on the other} occupying ^{great part of Hong Kong} the sea frontage which
looks eastward North Eastward
towards the ~~sea~~ ^{uninterruptable}
Shores of China. The intercommunication
is so constant so continuous ^{so} ~~that~~ ^{endless}
that it is well nigh impossible to protect
this all important sea port from
sea contracting ^{any of the} ~~any of the~~ epidemics
which so frequently scourge the poorest
homes of the ~~poor~~ ^{poor} pretty China.
The population of Hong Kong by the
recent census 220,000. About 2000.

The Plague stricken Island of
Hong Kong is just I am afraid
occupying an inevitable
position ~~in the~~ ^{in the} margin of
mankind. It might appear
that the ~~importance~~ ^{importance} attached to the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} of the distant
island in the China Sea being
~~guaranteed~~ ^{guaranteed} ~~China~~ ^{China} as a neighbour ~~there~~ ^{there}
~~is~~ ^{is} ~~out of proportion~~ ^{out of proportion}
being seized with a serious
epidemic is ~~not~~ ^{not} of much out
of all proportion!

When however it is remembered
that last year's ~~official~~ ^{official} returns
of the shipping of the port show
that the ~~tonnage~~ ^{tonnage} register is higher
than the port of London the hue &
cry raised is perhaps scarcely
~~sufficient to the importance of~~ ^{sufficient to the importance of}
~~the vessel the case~~ ^{the vessel the case} ~~the~~ ^{the} considered at.

It means that the largest
shipping port of the world ~~is~~ ^{is}
is placed in quarantine; ~~it~~ ^{it}
means that the trade of ~~the~~ ^{the} this
enormous distribution centre
is dislocated; ~~that~~ ^{that}

The proximity of Hong Kong
to the ~~mainland~~ ^{mainland} - a short three
quarters of a mile of sea alone
dividing them - renders it impossible
to place a cordon around the
shores at the onset of any epidemic
seizing the natives ~~at the~~ ^{at the}
of China.

certaining & me thoroughly in unison
with public feeling.

As medical men we consider a
reward for saving life is in accordance
with the nature of the work done &
with the ~~practice~~^{feelings} & traditions of the
profession to which we belong.

We men are worthy to bear that
honourable decoration - the Albert
Medal - have had the ~~decoration~~^{honours}
bestowed upon them, & we pray
that our recommendation ~~may~~ be
acceded to & our petition granted,
& that the names of these gentlemen be
added to the honoured list of ~~others~~
distinguished men now wearing the medal.

venture to recommend ~~that the~~
~~to the three~~ James, & Lousen.

James & Penny
be for the decoration
We pray, that our petition be granted
& theirs.

Letter II.

89186

The Plague in Hong Kong.

~~The Disease~~ (The Pestilence was
devastating)
~~is a very contagious~~
may be defined as

an acute specific ~~specific~~
(of an intensely fatal ~~nature~~ ^{character})
(Disease) characterized
accompanied
by high fever cerebral
congestion, ^{sudden} ~~disturbance of circulation~~ the formation
~~of~~ ^{of} ~~abscesses~~ ^{abscesses} of the lymphatic
& swelling in the lymphatic
glands. ~~of the constant~~

~~Spontaneous~~

Incubation. The period

of incubation is from
the 5th to the 8th day.

The ~~signs of the~~ ^{signs of the} ~~disease~~ ^{disease}

as in that a week

is required in the ~~case~~.

date of development²
after exposure to the
disease. ~~In the~~ ^{the following} case
~~Exposure~~ ~~a~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ 12 days
may be fairly claimed
as the period of incubation
~~a~~ ~~Prisoner~~ ~~a~~ ~~mate~~
a Chinaman was
condemned to a period
of imprisonment &
sent to goal. After 12
days he developed the
~~disease~~ bubonic plague
was removed to
the Epidemic Hospital
~~In the goal~~ no case had
previously occurred

within the precincts³
the Gool. This case is
noticeable as a day, is
recorded as the maximum
period hitherto.

Symptoms. an approaching

~~A patient suffering~~
^{in the family early stage.}
from pleurisy ~~was the~~
can be lies in bed and is
willing to disbelieve
the gravity of the
affection. The face is
placid; & the wrinkles
lines ^{of} being lessened
by the ~~face~~ muscular
relaxation common
~~to the muscular~~ to all
other muscles, ^{of the} the patient's
body.

4
as he hears me approach
~~turns~~ or is spoken to
turns towards me with
a stupefied ~~look~~ look
and dazed look as
if Demi-conscious in fact
he appears as if intox-
icated ^{by alcohol}. His gaze rests
on me for a moment
then either by feature
by voice or ~~movement~~
manual movements
shows his ~~mind~~ ^{thoughts}
have wandered from ~~the~~
regarding ^{only} ~~from~~ presence
by reason of shadowy creation
to some
of his free matter.

He at times understands
 to promote his tongue when
 spoken to harshly, but
 next moment he seems
 to disregard the ^{request} ~~order~~, &
 the ~~stimulant~~ effect
 of our words seems to
 be to stimulate ~~as~~ an
 outlying centre ^{as} with
 he either points ~~with~~
 his finger extended in
 a hesitating manner
 & turns his eye ^{head}
 upwards as if looking
 for something ~~at~~
~~in~~ on the wall behind
 his head. ~~For~~ all his
 movements are performed
 with a tremor ~~for~~ a

hesitancy or purpura
which convey the
impression that the ^{either} ~~was~~
centrifugal centrifugal
cerebral ~~stimulus~~, has
misinterpreted.

The patient lies
~~faintly still~~ ~~on his~~
on his back but occasionally
on either side usually
with the legs drawn
up. The position of the
legs is probably
determined by the
condition of the
femoral glands, their
~~is~~ frequently exquisite
tenderness causing
flexion of the thigh.

7

believe him. ~~But~~
~~however~~ The presence
of him however is not
to be feared from
the peculiar expression
as it is perfectly
apathetic & pre-
~~sent~~ the ruffian
aspect usually
attendant on moping.
~~In addition to this~~
The only other ~~feature~~
~~observable~~ symptoms
observable by inspection
~~of the~~ of the patient
without disturbing
him a removing the
bed clothes is the

~~the~~ markedly ^{newly flushed &} face &
~~grey~~ ^{yellow or} reddened
conjunctiva. The ^{cornea}
~~transparency~~ seems dulled
~~the~~ ^{yellow or} surrounded by
the red setting of the
conjunctiva ~~cornea~~
to the ^{occasionally} little &
apathetic ~~look~~ ^{condition} in tox-
icated ~~look~~ of the patient.

~~The~~
Following the usual
clinical course of ^{dissection}
nefritis -:
~~The~~ The type ~~is~~
during the first 24 hours
~~may be but little~~
~~altered, but usually~~
~~it is~~ ^{is} ~~lined with a~~
~~which is~~ rather shrunken
~~where~~ ^{is} ~~thickened~~ is ~~characterized~~

to a horn. The dorsum
is covered ^{by} ~~with~~ a lining
of white fur, the edges
red & the tip ~~protruding~~
^{dorsal protrusion.}
No tte. A ~~dryness~~ is
prevailing.
a ~~protruding~~ dryness of
the tongue & buccal
cavity generally
attends the disease
through out ^{after} ~~even earlier~~.
By the third day, the
tongue has become dry &
~~harder~~ harder to the
touch & contracted in
appearance. The dorsum
is dry, hard, rough &
fissured ^{longitudinally} ~~in colour~~.
mucrogary in colour
& at times ^{surface} black.

18.

The "mudoglossy tongue"
is a feature of the disease
or characteristic of the
later stages. The lips
are dry sometimes cracked
or sordes like the ^{teeth} ~~after the onset~~
of gum. I think it is not
a constant symptom
as might be inferred
from the appearance
of the mouth. Vomiting
is not uncommon
~~occurs~~ in the early
stage; usually ~~at~~ it
waxes in the disease.
The vomit is either bilious
in appearance, a dark
chocolate colour, but
never of the nature of
a "black vomit."
Constipation ^{obstinate} is the

Name.	Age.	Address.	Disease.	Vol. and Page.
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Neurotic in Hong Kong
Letter III

Post mortem appearance. ~~Post mortem~~

~~As recorded by post mortem~~ as death
a condition in which present is a wide
staring eye; the white of the conjunctiva being
visible not only below but above the
cornea. The temperature after death
in the neck is invariably rise. In a series
of cases the following is the record.

(is usually) hardly before death.
Temperature at ~~death~~ in 12 cases averaged
103.8. Five minutes after death it is probably
106. Ten - - - - - 106.8
fifteen - - - - - 107.6
twenty - - - - - 107.2
twenty five - - - - - 106.7
thirty - - - - - 106.4

Name.	Age.	Address.	Disease.	Vol. and Page.
It is the conscientious way in which all matters whether medical or sanitary were ^{entrusted to him} attended to. We believe that a public recognition of their service by their British Government Countryman would be a grateful testimony to them & escape one thoroughly in unison with public feeling. As Doctors medical men we consider that with the awards of human life continually in view we consider that a reward for saving life is in accordance ^{in accordance with the work done & the} merit displayed ^{without break of the} epidemic ^{epidemic} to ^{to} the ^{the} recipients of the ^{recipients of the} Albert ^{Albert} no men ^{no men} more worthy to ^{more worthy to} wear that ^{wear that} honorable ^{honorable} decoration ^{decoration} the Albert Medal & we ^{& we} hope ^{hope} can ^{can} be ^{be} have ^{have} had ^{had} the ^{the} decoration ^{decoration} bestowed upon them & we pray that our recommendation may be to ^{to} accepted ^{accepted} to ^{to} that ^{that} our ^{our} petition ^{petition} be ^{be} granted ^{granted}				

Plague ~~existed~~ ^{and} Canton ~~✗~~
Pakhoi March ^{Hong Kong}
began May. ^{poorly characterized} Symptoms
^{of granular material}
Fever ² high, Vomiting, B. ^{den}
^{chiefly} Femoral, Inguinal, axillary
Cervical, generally exquisitely
tender. ^{Suppurate later} One region only usually
affected. ~~✗~~ ~~✗~~ Petechiae unusual.
³ ~~Haemorrhage~~ ² mucous membrane
rare. Cerebral symptoms
marked. ~~Cases~~ ^{Die} ~~finish~~ convulsive,
Comatose ^{or} delirious. Heart
failure frequently ~~instantaneous~~
~~immediate~~ ^{instantaneous}.
^{Albuminuria rare; Haematuria absent.}
Haemoglobin greatly diminished.
Blood rapidly ~~destroyed~~
disintegrated.
Post Mortem. Spleen en-
larged. Haemorrhage ^{rare} ~~very~~

Plague Papers.

Cerebral Meninges, ^{+ Cortex} always
~~congested~~ hyperaemic. Kidneys
and Liver cloudy swelling.
Affected glands show
haemorrhagic infiltration
bathed in sero-sanguineous
fluid. ~~oedema~~ causing

sometimes widespread oedema.
Mortality Early mortality
85% - Now 60%.

~~2~~ Total deaths ~~170000~~
officially registered.

Numbers leave for Canton
dying in Transit. Chinese
scared, ~~50000~~ left the
colony. Epidemic distinctly
diminished ~~in~~ here. Indefinite
news about Canton, Peking
stopped ^{since news} ~~everybody~~ Port in
strict quarantine by other
ports, irregular

Confirmed by Louson & James
~~the~~

~~X. Suppuration general after
ten days.~~

~~X. Constipation the rule~~
~~to~~

Death general ^{fifth} ~~four to six~~ days
sometimes 24 hours. ~~Death~~
~~rare after 10 days.~~

Rare after 10 days.