















PLAGUE INOCULATION.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR AT THE RESEARCH LABORATORY. His Excellency Lord Lamington, Governor of Bombay, paid a visit to the Plague Research Laboratory at the old Government House, Parel.

Colonel Bannerman, after a brief mention as to the purpose of the demonstration, conducted his Excellency through the various rooms in which the different processes were seen in progress and explained, his Excellency taking the keenest interest in all he saw going on.

The following is a brief summary of what was witnessed by his Excellency:—

Finely minced goat's flesh is mixed with hydrochloric acid in jars and immersed in water at 158 deg. Fahr. for three days when the meat is dissolved by the acid.

Acid albumen, albumose and peptone are then formed, and the fluid is then neutralised by caustic soda and diluted with water. The broth is then heated to precipitate phosphates and coagulate albumen, refiltered and distributed in flasks. These are plugged with cotton wool and sterilised in a steam boiler for one hour, the broth being afterwards solidified by the addition of "agar-agar,"—a Chinese sea-weed of "Onim ghas."

The plague germs obtained from hospitals are placed in Pasteur flasks to grow and form "seed stock" which is subsequently tested in regard to purity to make sure that no germ other than plague is present.

These flasks stand in a dark room for six to eight weeks, during which period the germs grow and multiply in the broth. The vaccine is next tested, a drop from each flask being placed on "agar" jelly, and the resulting growth examined to see whether it is plague and nothing else.

Having been tested, the plague germs are killed by heating for 15 minutes at 131 deg. Fahr. so that in the fluid nothing remains but dead microbes and the poison made by them while they were living.

The fluid is next protected from contamination by the addition of carbolic acid; this prevents the growth of any living germs that might get into the fluid. A sterilised sypion, with a bulb attachment, is next placed in the flask in such a manner that no germs can gain entrance to the flask; the long-nosed bottles are vacuumised and sterilized by heating to 347 degrees Fahr. for three hours.

The nose of the bottle is introduced through the rubber diaphragm into the bulb containing the vaccine fluid, its point is broken and the fluid at once flows into the bottle. The bottle is then withdrawn and the point of the nose sealed in the flame and the bottles are kept for ten days before being finally examined.

Two bottles from each batch are selected for testing to see whether any living germs are present, two tests being employed, one for germs that can grow in the presence of air (oxygen), and the other for germs that will not grow if oxygen is present. If no germs are found the vaccine is pronounced fit for use.

not do this because there was no cork to the bottle, and in consequence when once it had been opened the fluid had to be used entirely or thrown away. With the new bottle also the operator must sterilise the opening when unsealing it, because to open a bottle the small end was first heated in a flame and then the cold fluid inside was jerked up to the hot part of the glass and the point broke off.

Another improvement was the hot oil steriliser. They had now made a very simple apparatus by which revolved a very simple apparatus by which the inoculation instruments were sterilised between each operation by being placed in hot oil, and this apparatus was supplied to every operator. All these were considerable improvements and they claimed that the improvements as now made was absolutely prophylactic and they could send it out with safe to use, and they could send it out with absolute confidence.

Before closing he should like to thank the members of the laboratory staff who had waited in the different and explained to everybody the different processes, and he should like also to thank his Excellency for coming there that evening, at very much inconvenience to himself, it must have been, at this busy time, to give them his encouragement and assistance.

THE NORWEGIAN THRONE. It is considered certain in Copenhagen that the throne of Norway will be officially offered to Prince Charles to Denmark, the husband of Princess Maud of Wales, within the next few days.

A GRAND DUKES DISGRACE. The "Official Messenger" of St. Petersburg publishes an order of the Tsar, dated Oct. 15, depriving the Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovitch of his military rank.

ROYAL DIVORCE SUIT. The Coburg divorce case began on Oct. 16 at Gotha without the attendance of Prince Philip and the Princess Louise.

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