

NO DANGER OF CHOLERA INVASION OF THIS COUNTRY

Time Was When Its Appearance Was Occasion For a Panic

Now Government's Public Health Machinery Insures Safety

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THE appearance of cholera in the port of New York has not the power to spread terror that it once had, but is still a serious thing. Owing to the progress of science, common sense and clean living, a cholera epidemic in America is well nigh impossible, yet the one chance in a hundred that the scourge may become general must be combated. It is raging in Russia, Italy and other parts of Europe, and the incoming steamers from the infected ports, carrying their thousands of immigrants, bring the disease to our own doors. We cannot stop the immigrants from coming—or at least we have not done so—but we can keep out their diseases.

For this purpose were long ago established a quarantine and a health officer for the port of New York. The man who has held this place for many years is Dr. Alvah H. Doty. Dr. Doty is not a mere local official. He is a national institution, with an international reputation. His great contribution to the study of cholera and to that of many other infectious diseases is that the contagion is carried by persons and not by clothing, old rags or inanimate substance whatsoever. It is largely due to Dr. Doty's efforts that the dread Asiatic plague never gets past the port of New York, the door of the nation.

No Panic Nowadays.

In the old days the news that eight deaths from cholera had occurred on an island in New York bay would have occasioned a panic. People would have fled from New York and from most of the other eastern cities. Now it is merely an item of news, over which nobody grows particularly excited. Millions in the metropolis, only a few miles distant from Swinburn Island, where the cholera cases are treated, go about their business with unconcern. They know that between them and the infection is Dr. Doty. Buttressed by science and supported by his corps of trained assistants, he is equal to the contest. That is what the age of reason has accomplished for mankind. The Dr. Dotys, fortified by knowledge, hold the terrors of old at bay. Cholera comes, and they close the door in its face. The bubonic plague appears on the Pacific coast, but goes no farther and is allowed to gain no real foothold even there. Smallpox is made mild and innocuous.

The old trinity of terror were war, famine and pestilence. Science has driven war into the shadows outside of civilization, has rendered famine next to impossible and has put up the bars against pestilence. If a man of 100 years ago were told these things he would call them miracles. Yet they are only the result of the application of reason. Men have gained more knowledge, more self reliance, more mastery. Democracy and education have transformed the world. The more we know and the more we apply our knowledge, the more secure we become. Thus knowledge and works beget faith and faith in turn gives mastery and power. The jungle recedes, and not only the physical jungle, but the psychological jungle which held terrors and monsters as real as the other. Perhaps with all our advancement we are only on the borderland of discovery and invention as yet, but the short distance we have gone has already made a new heaven and a new earth.

Former Cholera Invasions.

Cholera comes in a tide across the sea, but halts at our shores. Yet the time was when it swept beyond the coast line and spread terror and death in our chief cities. In 1832, and again in 1848, it invaded our territory and the cemeteries of our cities were like newly plowed fields in its wake. There were uncounted furrows of new graves.

In 1832 cholera appeared in Detroit and spread throughout the land. It arrived in New York on June 27 and lasted two months. In that short time there were 3,400 deaths in the metropolis alone. Death was equally busy in other northern cities. In Cincinnati and elsewhere the scourge did not disappear till 1833. In St. Louis and New Orleans the pestilence was at its worst. The belief held in some sections that cholera does not flourish in northern climates is a delusion. Nowhere is it more destructive than in Russia. The only thing that renders America safe is vigilance. Before medical science and sanitation had reached their present state of advancement we were as subject to the scourge as others. Our worst experience came in 1848 and 1849. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the population was swept off in that visitation of the plague. In one week New York recorded more than 700 deaths.

The Scourge of 1848-9.

There are many yet living who remember that scourge. Most of us have heard of it from an older generation. Fortunate was the family that escaped losing some of its members. Especial-

ly was this true of those living in cities. In the more sparsely settled country districts the progress of the disease was arrested. One writer has thus spoken of the devastation of those two awful years:

So strong was the instinct of self preservation that in many cases when one member of a family developed the first symptoms of the malady the rest of the family rushed from the house and the city, leaving the victim to die alone.

The custom of handshaking was abolished for fear of contagion. Nobody went out of doors except upon the most necessary errands. Old acquaintances recognized each other only by a curt nod. Many persons walked in the middle of the street to avoid the breath of pedestrians and maneuvered to pass to windward of all they encountered.

Believing that the smoke of gunpowder was a preventive, they burned it at intervals in the houses. Tobacco smoke many believed in. Even women and children were seen with cigars and pipes in their mouths constantly. Others carried tarred rope in their hands and in every pocket and hung camphor bags about their necks. Many chewed garlic for the same purpose and carried sponges saturated with vinegar dangling from their buttons and inhaled the smell of it from smelling bottles.

Funerals were given up altogether, and the most prominent citizens were unconsciously placed in the death cart and laid away in the cemeteries.

Many on feeling the first symptoms of cholera certain, committed suicide. Several on their way to the hospitals leaped from the ambulances and fled, pursued by the driver, through the streets, none daring to stop them for fear of contagion.

Subsequent visitations of cholera in America occurred in 1852, 1865-8 and

plague, and vast numbers of the faithful contract it and carry it back to all Moslem lands.

Russia and Mecca are a long way from the U. S. A., however, and just now we have to keep our own doorway clean from the contagion. The alleged case of the plague that appeared in Auburn, N. Y., served to warn the people of the danger. The young Italian who died of what was pronounced cholera there had been detained at quarantine in New York until the authorities were satisfied, after which he was allowed to go. He was evidently one of the so called cholera "carriers." It is claimed that these may bear the germs in their systems for weeks before stricken down. Sometimes they escape altogether, but still infect others. They are the most dangerous cases. Ordinarily the disease develops in five days, so that by quarantining for that length of time the health officers feel safe.

A New York paper in giving an account of the death of the Auburn victim had one item that is a trifle mystifying. It read as follows:

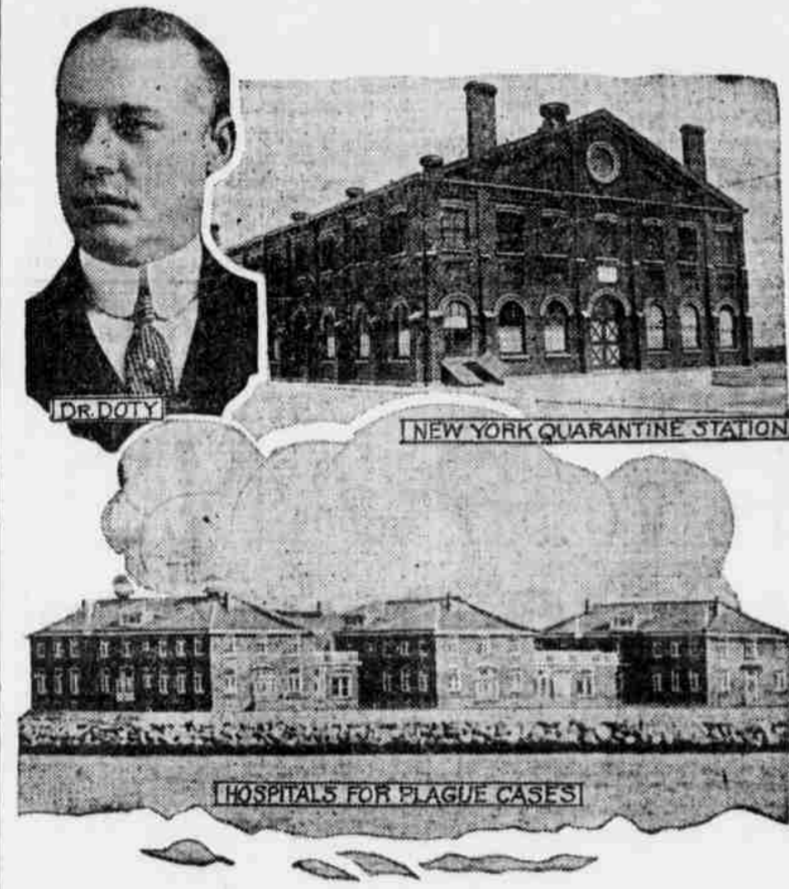
Tonight a large bonfire was made of beds, bedding and the clothing of the victim and his two brothers who nursed him.

Is it not a little drastic to burn up brothers in this fashion? Perhaps the paper meant that only the beds, bedding and clothing of the brothers were fed to the flames, but the wording of the thing leaves a dark and clammy doubt which should be cleared up.

Doty Sees No Danger.

Despite the cases in New York bay and the reported death at Auburn, Dr. Doty insists that the country is not in the slightest danger. He has been right so often before that his word will go, but he should be careful not to let any more cholera carriers get away and die in distant cities, to the danger of their beds, clothing, brothers and the population generally. Science is mighty and will prevail, but for all that cholera is a rather ticklish thing, especially in the watermelon season.

The national government is taking an interest in the matter, as is shown by the fact that Surgeon General Wyman has sent Assistant Surgeon General I. E. Cofer, a Pacific coast chol-



era as late as 1873, when the disease appeared in New Orleans and the Mississippi valley. It has appeared at various times since at the port of New York, but has been checked before entering the country.

Filipinos Easy Prey.

The Philippine Islands have been subject to the scourge for centuries. Since the American occupation there have been determined efforts to stamp it out, with some success. The greatest difficulty has been to teach the natives to observe quarantine regulations and to keep clean. Where people quarter their pigs in the houses and eat almost anything, provided it does not require too much work to get it, cholera finds a congenial soil. One method of keeping the plague down was to interdict the eating of certain kinds of vegetables and fruits, watermelon being one of the first prohibited. There are people who regard watermelon as a disease in itself and do not wonder that it breeds other diseases. However, if it is kept out of the ears and eaten noiselessly it can be borne at ordinary times.

Returning to the kindred subject of cholera, the appearance of the plague this year has been earlier than usual. It is not only in southern Italy, but has been reported in Venice and is expected to spread to Austria. It is also making its annual ravages in Russia, where superstition and lack of health measures give it free reign. There the peasants tear down the isolation hospitals built to care for the plague victims. They seem to regard ignorance as sacred and resent any appearance of enlightenment as blasphemous. The customary method of dealing with the pestilence among the peasants is to plow around each village, the plow being drawn by women and children, holy water being sprinkled along the way.

One of the greatest agencies for spreading cholera throughout Asia and Europe is the annual pilgrimage made to Mecca by the Mohammedans. Mecca is a breeding ground of the

era expert, to assist Dr. Doty. The treasury department at Washington has sent the following order to the health officers of the ports of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans and Boston:

To diminish the danger from cholera bacillus carriers among passengers coming from ports or places where cholera prevails and arriving on vessels upon which cholera has appeared shall be detained ten days for observation unless after five days' detention they are found not to be bacillus carriers. The same provision shall apply also to other persons arriving on said vessels who for special reasons are deemed liable to be thus infected.

The government also has officers abroad at the various infected ports, detaining passengers on that side, isolating those suspected of infection and taking every possible precaution. The Italian government is also co-operating. The only danger is that despite all these measures of protection some case may slip past and infect some such populous section as the east side of New York. Even then it is believed that medical science would be able to cope with the disease and stamp it out, but that is too perilous a risk. The moment that cholera began to spread in any city panic would immediately seize upon the inhabitants, an exodus would ensue, business would be demoralized and consequences would result that stagger the mind even to contemplate.

In the meantime the public at large should keep their heads. There have been many cholera scares in the past forty years that came to nothing. Medical science is more able to cope with the disease now than ever before. It is possible for people to get into a state of fear that will make them proper breeding ground for cholera or any other disease. Keep cool. Dr. Doty is still on the job, the national government is taking all possible precautions, and where American genius and determination are thus at work on a problem they may be depended on to solve it. In the language of Dr. Doty, "In America we have no reason to be fearful of Asiatic cholera in these days."

MURILLO FOUND IN ORPHAN HOME

Painting Was Given by Spanish Consul Fifty Years Ago.

THOUSANDS OFFERED FOR IT.

Work of Art Shows Virgin Ascending to Heaven—So Willed That It Cannot Be Sold as Long as There is Anything Else Salable in Home.

In the humble little chapel of St. Vincent's Orphan home, Boston, a Roman Catholic institution for poor children, there has just been discovered on the gospel side of the altar what is said to be an old master. If the word of experts is correct the painting is worth many thousands of dollars.

A connoisseur from the Society of Fine Arts, New York, has just made an offer of several thousands of dollars for the painting. The New York representative, besides making a money offer, promised a duplicate of the original.

The painting is entitled "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven." Even if the work of art is worth thousands of dollars, it can never be disposed of by the authorities of the home as long as there is anything else to be sold.

"This painting," said one of the authorities, "is a very old one, just how old I do not know. Many years ago—I believe it is more than fifty—there was in this city a Spanish consul, representative of his country to this port. He was a devout Catholic and spent much of his spare time at the home here.

"One day, nearly half a century ago, he was suddenly ordered home. Before leaving he came here and left the painting with the sisters, with the understanding that he would repossess it when he returned.

"But he never came back. While in Spain he was stricken ill and died. Before he passed away, however, he willed us the painting. But he laid down the condition that it was never to be sold as long as there was anything else salable in the home.

"We always believed, from what the early records of the home show and from what has been handed down through talk in the passing years, that the painting is an original. But our belief was confirmed a few days ago by Sister Mary Ann, who was in charge of the home."

Standing five by three feet, the Virgin is shown ascending into heaven, clad in flowing robes of purple and white. About her, rolling on fleecy clouds, are cherubim.

A Manager.

"And what right have you to call yourself a manager?" asked the eminent and irate actress after a stormy rehearsal.

"I suppose," was the deferential reply, "it is because I have managed so long to escape with my life."—Washington Star.

Business.

"How shall I prove the sincerity of my devotion?" asked the young man who had been so long coming to the point that doubt had begun to accumulate against him.

"Call the parson in as a witness," suggested the young lady, who meant business.

A Little Way Off.

"Tommy—What does the paper mean by calling Mr. Bugghaus an eight legged business man? T's Father—I presume it means he is not exactly square."

Appropriate.

"Here's a hairpin in the soup, waiter," said the mad diner.

"Yes, sir. It's all right. It's bare soup, sir."—Yonkers Statesman.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
—For—
COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
Primaries Sept. 30.



I. Ferdinand Kroll, a Republican of the borough of Honesdale, and a supporter of the party, hereby give notice to the voters of Wayne county that I announce myself a candidate for the office of County Commissioner. If elected I will faithfully perform the duties of the office and endeavor to reduce the taxation of the county.

Yours truly,
F. KROLL, Blacksmith,
52w14 Honesdale, Pa.

NOTORIETY BECAUSE OF DOG.

Retirement of Colonel Deems Recalls Story of His Pet.

Washington, July 20.—President Taft has accepted the voluntary application of Colonel Clarence Deems of the coast artillery corps for retirement under the forty year service law. The action has been expected for some time by the authorities.

Colonel Deems gained notoriety by reason of his pet dog which, according to complaints made by Major A. W. Chase and other officers at Fort Howard under the colonel, had a place at the eating table and in a seat in the post hack. The records in the case also show that seas were mentioned. This was understood to have produced friction between Colonel Deems and Major Chase, then captain at Fort Howard.

Resentment.

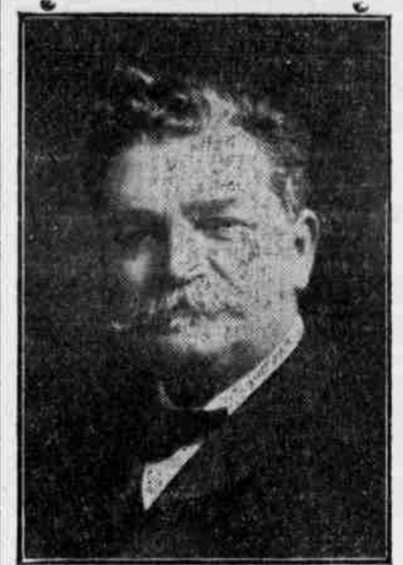
"Did you say I was a cheap trickster?" asked the ward worker.

"No, I didn't," replied the man who is close to the boss. "I merely said you were a trickster."

"Well, that's all right, but don't you ever insinuate that I am doing a cut rate business."—Washington Star.

Wants to Try For Big Prize.

London, July 20.—Gilmour, the aviator, whose certificate was suspended by the Aero club because he flew over the Henley regatta, has begun proceedings to restrain the club's action. Gilmour is fighting for a chance to enter the Daily Mail's circuit race for the prize of \$40,000.



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in all sizes made can be had in the Best Designs and Colorings. Quality and Value Leads and Satisfies.

Carpets

more to be desired than in any year are bright, soft and harmonious in blendings

Window and Door Curtains and Portieres

are all that heart and eye can wish, Design and Shading very artistic and captivating.

The Floor Coverings

in Mattings and Linoleums are just the thing for the coming Spring and Summer use. Clean, healthful and cool.

Shades

in all grades and standard sizes on hand. Special measurements made to order and best goods furnished.

Room Mouldings, Plate Rails

and Bead finish in many new styles and colors. Select your goods early and secure the best before stocks are broken up in many patterns and styles.

MENNER & CO. Stores, Keystone Block
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Honesdale Dime Bank

We will help you with three per cent interest. Each new depositor is presented with a useful, as well as ornamental household bank.

We make a specialty of loaning money to Wayne county people. Business accounts solicited.

Call and see us or you can do your banking with us by mail.

Write and we will tell you how.

JOS. A. FISCH, Cashier.

E. C. MUMFORD, President.

Roll of HONOR

Attention is called to the STRENGTH of the

Wayne County Savings Bank

The FINANCIER of New York City has published a ROLL OF HONOR of the 11,470 State Banks and Trust Companies of United States. In this list the WAYNE COUNTY SAVINGS BANK

Stands 38th in the United States

Stands 10th in Pennsylvania.

Stands FIRST in Wayne County.

Capital, Surplus, \$527,342.88

Total ASSETS, \$2,951,048.26

Honesdale, Pa., December 1, 1910.

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Advertise in The Citizen?
We print postal cards,
We print pamphlets.