

of India, on the vaccination of pilgrims in Bombay: I have the honor to submit a report by the Protector of Pilgrims upon the vaccination campaign which was instituted by us during the recent out-going pilgrim system. It will be seen that the total number of pilgrims vaccinated in Bombay was 8,278, or nearly half the total number that arrived in the city on their way to the Hedjaz. In view of the fact that this is the first year in which any organized attempt has been made to introduce vaccination among Hajis and that at the outset there was some opposition to the measure, the result may, I think, be regarded as very encouraging. Moreover, the letter which was addressed by the Government of India at the request of the Bombay Government to other local and provincial authorities asking that intending pilgrims from these parts might be warned of the desirability of getting themselves vaccinated before leaving their homes, produced an excellent effect and resulted in considerable numbers from Bhopal, the United Provinces, the Punjab and Hyderabad being vaccinated before they reached Bombay. These persons have not been included in the total of 8,278, which represents the number actually vaccinated within Bombay City limits. Thanks are due to the Governments of His Highness the Nizam and Her Highness the Begam of Bhopal, in that scarcely a single pilgrim was permitted to leave their respective States unvaccinated. If the numbers of vaccinated pilgrims from these States and the two provinces mentioned above are added to the local total of 8,278 the number of vaccinated would amount to considerable more than half the total number of pilgrims who passed through Bombay to Jedda.

Apart, however, from the actual numbers vaccinated or the percentage of successful operations, the work done by the pilgrim department is in my opinion valuable in that it has proved to be possible what has hitherto been regarded as an almost impossible task, namely, the vaccination of utterly illiterate and sometimes fanatic pilgrims from all parts of India, from China, the Straits Settlements, and Central Asia. In fact, when once the department and the brokers had set to work, no one responded more readily to persuasion than the Bukharis and the Javanese. Even the Moplahs of Malabar yielded

readily to advice given in their own tongue. As the results are likely to be of interest to the Municipal Corporation, I venture to suggest that the above facts be made known to the municipal commissioner, whose vaccination staff certainly deserves great praise.

The Government passed the following resolution: "The Governor in Council desires to congratulate Mr. Edwards, his staff and the non-official gentlemen who lent their assistance, on the success of their endeavors to get pilgrims vaccinated before embarkation. His Excellency in Council will watch with interest the effect on the health of the returning pilgrims of these operations, and the subject should be specially dealt with in the report to be submitted at the close of the return season. A copy of the report and accompaniments should be forwarded to the Municipal Commissioner for the city of Bombay for information."

"Germ Carriers" in Australia.

The head of the Bacteriological Laboratory of the University of Melbourne, Dr. Bull, refers in his last annual report to the increasing importance attached by all epidemiological authorities to the "germ carriers" in the maintenance and spread of epidemic diseases. While examinations in regard to typhoid and tuberculosis had varied very slightly during the last five years, diphtheria examinations had increased from 655 to 3,956 in that period. The figures for 1908 were 1,792 while last year there was an increase of 2,065 on that total. This is no doubt due to the increasing importance attached by medical practitioners to the systematic bacteriological examinations of suspected diphtheritic throats, and indicates an active coöperation of the public health department and medical men in dealing with the problem of diphtheria prevention by the detection of "chronic diphtheria carriers." From a laboratory point of view this involves a very systematic examination of specimens, not only from convalescent patients, in order to ascertain whether they are free to mix naturally with the community at large, but also in case of diphtheria from the nose and throat of all "contacts." The amount of bacteriological work required to deal with the detection of germ carriers, says an Australian contemporary, "is very considerable, but it is obvious that no me-