

Knowing the course or source of a disease, means to eradicate the source and check its future course should seriously occupy the mind. Two years ago when typho-miasmatic fever broke out, the cases were quarantined outside the fort as they occurred. A large square tent was fitted up with a stove and trestle-beds for the purpose. A bell-tent was placed immediately in front and used as a latrine, which, together with the hospital and officers' latrines, was treated with dry earth. Altogether the patients could not have been made as comfortable inside the fort. Nobbs, a settler, taken with the fever, was removed to our quarantine, his billiard hall cleaned and disinfected, and closed to the public for a number of days. Inside the fort the huts were vacated in rotation, thoroughly cleaned, washed and whitewashed, and disinfected with the fumes of burning sulphur. A window was inserted at the back of each room, to insure ventilation, besides which ventilators were placed in the roof. The bunks, a source of filth and discomfort, were removed, and trestle-beds adopted instead. Cesspools and other nidi of infectious fermentation were hunted up and eradicated. The Quartermasters' new building being available for storage, the Government stores were removed to it, and the old building turned into a barrack room. In this way we were enabled to deplete the overcrowded huts, and materially add to the safety and comfort of the force. Every means to prevent the spread of the disease was put in practice, and we were repaid by effectually checking the fever in its typhoid form. I also strongly recommended the building of a well, and enforce the exclusive use of its water for drinking and cooking purposes, but on account of the lateness of the season it was found impracticable. However, when the epidemic re-visited last summer, I again suggested a well, and Mr. Neale, with his usual energy, went to work and had a well built with sufficient capacity to furnish the troops with water for all purposes.

Last year we put into practice sanitary measures at an early date. Early in the spring the rooms were thoroughly washed and whitewashed, the men being placed under canvas in the meantime. Nooks and corners where poisonous matter might lurk were rooted out, and general sanitation practiced to the full extent of the means at hand. The same routine was gone over when the first symptoms of the fever manifested themselves, and it is a remarkable and pleasant fact to record that the only case of *typho-miasmatic* fever which happened among our men was Constable Brown of "F" Division, who contracted the disease *outside* the fort while on a three months' leave, after taking on for a new term of service. This is encouraging, although we had, during this last epidemic, as many cases of fever as the three previous years put together, we had not one case of typho-miasmatic fever which originated *inside* the fort. This shows that, to a certain extent, we must have mastered the typhoid tendency of the fever. I may also state that after the use of the well-water was made compulsory the remittents and intermittents seem to have received an effectual check. I remember no new case presenting itself after this, and the cases in hand ameliorated daily. However, as this was somewhat late in the season, when amelioration in some epidemics usually takes place, I must not be too positive as to the preventative virtues of the well-water. But this cannot be said of typhoid fever, which is always more severe and more prevalent in the fall and early winter. Still, the above facts present themselves so forcibly to my mind that I cannot help but state my firm conviction that we have nearly, if not completely mastered this miasmatic fever in both its simple and typhoid forms, and that by further sanitary measures, which I will now suggest, if conscientiously and thoroughly carried out, there is a strong hope that the fever will be effectually and radically stamped out of Fort Walsh and its immediate surroundings.

The sanitary measures mentioned above as having been practiced at Fort Walsh are of such vital importance that I will briefly recapitulate them, together with a few other suggestions.

1. To thoroughly clean and whitewash the rooms, and disinfect them by the burning of sulphur in sticks, an ounce for every 1,000 cubic feet, completely sealing up the building for at least twenty-four hours. This to be done as soon as the season may allow the men to go under canvas.