

Chinese came also the plague peculiar to the East. Herding as they do in shacks, sheds, and even boxes, all crowded into a very small area, the race is a very difficult one with which to deal. The attention of the health officers of the City of Victoria was first attracted by the peculiar habits of some of the denizens of the Chinese quarter who were habitually sleeping under the sidewalks of the streets. A sharp investigation followed, and after a diligent search the sanitary officer succeeded in locating five lepers who had successfully eluded the vigilance of the quarantine officers at William's Head, and had brought to the city the loathsome disease in its initial stages. Following the policy of isolation, most notably exemplified at Molokai, in Hawaii, and also adopted at the Tracadie Lazaretto in eastern Canada, the City Council, eight years ago, removed the victims to D'Arcy Island where a line of huts,

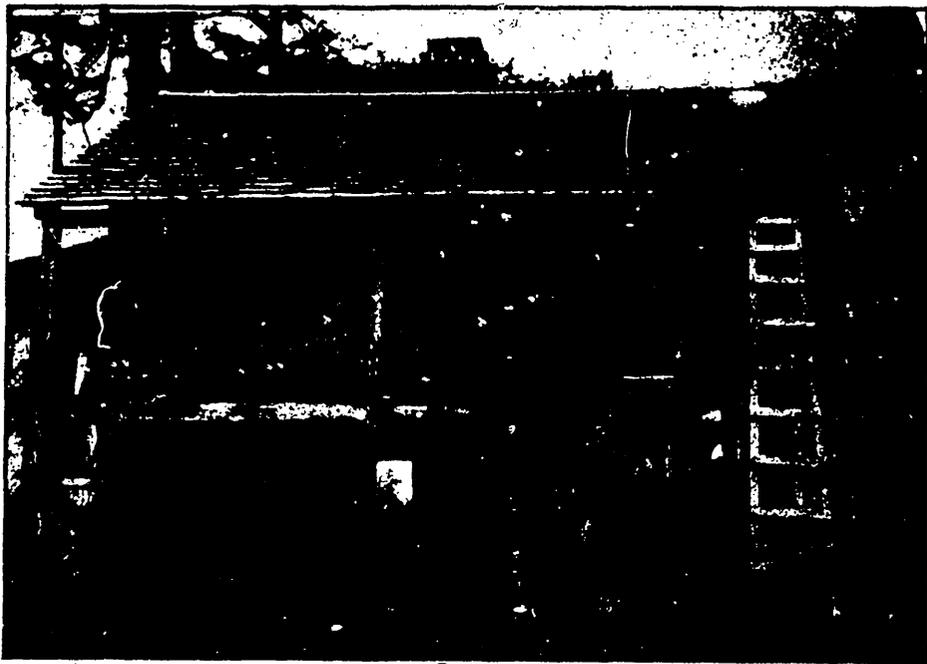


FIG. 2.

all under one roof, were erected for their accommodation, the use of the island for this purpose being granted by the Federal Government. Here the unfortunate sufferers are regularly supplied with rations and properly provided for without imperilling public health. Other municipalities have united with Victoria, and now whenever a leper is discovered in any part of the province he is at once conveyed to the Lazaretto; the corporations, having inmates, contribute pro rata to the aggregate cost, and every three months the sanitary officer of the city of Victoria visits the settlement with a sufficient supply of food for the following quarter.

It was on one of these occasions that, through the courtesy of Dr. Fraser, Medical Health Officer for the city of Victoria, the writers had an opportunity of visiting these unfortunate but interesting people. It was one of those delightful mornings in May when all the forces of nature unite in a chorus of delight. The sunbeams, shimmering on the surface of the ocean, flashed