

Some Old Health Rules.

Mosaic Laws Included Complete Code of Health Ordinances Which are Equal to Modern Statutes.

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"THE Mosaic law was intended to regulate and for centuries actually did regulate the entire life and policy of the Jewish people. It embraced within the sweep of its cognition and control the personal conduct of the citizen, their domestic and social relations, their land tenure, their education, the relief of the poor, their sanitary regulations, their policy and the administration of civil and criminal justice. It was, in brief, the National constitution and code. And there is no system of law, ancient or modern, not excepting the marvelous system bequeathed by Rome, which is more worthy of careful study.

"It is a remarkable characteristic of Mosaic law that a very large proportion of its provisions are devoted to purely hygienic and sanitary prescriptions. Of the 613 injunctions into which the Jewish doctors divide the law, more than one half relate to matters of health, while of the 524 paragraphs of the Mishna and the corresponding chapters of the Talmud, 213 are devoted to purely sanitary regulations. State medicine, which, even among the more advanced and enlightened of nations, is little more than a term, was with the Jews a practical and potent reality of every day life.

"The principles which underlie and pervade and mold the whole of the sanitary enactments of the Mosaic law are that health is a matter not merely of individual, but of public concern, that in the body politic, if one member suffers all the members suffer with it; that infectious or contagious disease is a subject not merely of individual or family interest, but of public and state importance; that when an individual, in whatever rank of life, becomes the victim of infectious or contagious disorder, not only is his own life imperiled, but he becomes the center and source of grave public danger: that his person, his clothing, his dwelling and its furniture are all a standing menace to the public weal; that the community of which he is a unit has the duty and the right by isolation of the patient so long as danger exists, and by the disinfection, and if necessary, the destruction of his material

surroundings, to secure itself against the spread of the disease, and that no considerations of private interest or family affection or social distinction shall be permitted to stand in the way of the impartial and rigid enforcement of the statutory remedy.

"The Mosaic law regarding the treatment of infectious diseases, of which these are the fundamental principles, is minutely detailed in chapters xiii and iv of Leviticus. It is unnecessary to recite the numerous provisions of that law, as they are easy accessible to all, but the following comprehend generally its enactments:

"1. The compulsory and immediate notification of a responsible health officer of every case of suspected or actual infectious disease or of other insanitary conditions fraught with danger to health.

"2. The immediate inspection by such public health officer of the afflicted individual or of the alleged unsanitary articles and conditions.

"3. In doubtful cases the total isolation of the patient from family and friends and the community for a period to determine whether the disease shall assume an infective or non-infective form.

"4. In actual cases the continued and permanent isolation of the patient so long as the disease continues and consequent danger to the community exists.

"5. On the favorable issue of doubtful cases, or on recovery from actual cases of infectious disease the restoration of the patient to the community only with the permission of the public health officer, after due inspection and upon compliance with certain prescribed purifications.

"6. The disinfection and, if deemed requisite, the destruction by fire of all infected clothing and other effects.

"7. The disinfection and, if necessary, the demolition and destruction of infected dwellings, or of dwellings the sanitary condition of which is dangerous to health.

"These are generally the enactments of the Mosaic law regarding the prevention, the arrest and the extermination of zymotic diseases of whatever character."

"Consumption is no longer the hopeless malady it was earlier believed to be."—*Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden.*