

One mile above Dix Island is Hoffman Island, also artificial, and upon this are the buildings and appliances necessary for a quarantine of observation. "Suspects" from yellow-fever, cholera, typhus or yellow-fever exposure, are here detained during the respective periods of incubation. Two immense structures furnish accommodations for about 2,000 persons, and in another building are the quarters for officers and employés, and for administration purposes. Abundant bathing and laundry facilities and disinfecting appliances are provided, and here as well as on Dix Island, are immense reservoirs and a number of cisterns for the storage of fresh water.

The health officer's station, or main quarantine station is near Clifton, and at this place is the residence of the health officer, quarters for two deputies, and a good wharf. Vessels are here boarded from a commodious steam yacht, by which, also, communication with the other divisions of the quarantine establishment is maintained. The islands and stations are connected by telegraph, and the health officer's quarters are also connected by wire with the city.

The personnel of the establishment varies with the exigencies of the season. In addition to the health officer, I found only two deputies employed, one upon the quarantine ship and one at the quarantine station. Dr. Smith himself attends to the sick in hospital, and was treating a yellow-fever case (convalescent) during my visit.

Summing up, with reference to the exclusion of cholera and small-pox,* the quarantine plant and facilities of the port of New York are unrivalled, the printed regulations judicious, and with proper vigilance, the service should suffice to prevent either of these diseases from obtaining access to the country through this avenue. But the entire system is hampered by a vicious financial policy which is, in effect, a farming-out of the service. At the other important ports the fees go directly to the municipality or State, and the chief executive officers are paid fixed salaries, and are provided with such employés as may be necessary to the proper and efficient conduct of the quarantine.

New York may exclude cholera under her present system, but more confidence would be reposed in the result if less were demanded of professional ability, personal integrity and executive firmness in the health officer, and if the system were freed from influences which are most deprecated by those who, without prejudice, best understand them.

Pennsylvania:

The maritime quarantine of the port of Philadelphia, and practically of the State of Pennsylvania, is enforced at the "Lazaretto", situated on the left bank of the Delaware river, about eleven miles below Philadelphia. In company with Dr. R. A. Cleemann, of the City Board of Health, and Dr. Benjamin Lee, Secretary of the State Board of Health, I made a visit of inspection to this station on the 6th of August last. The quarantine grounds are about ten acres in extent, surrounded by cultivated farms and separated from the main channel by Little Tinicum island, between which island and the station there was formerly a navigable channel which was used as the quarantine anchorage, but is now too shallow for that purpose for large vessels. Quarantine was established at this point in the early part of the century, and sections of a law enacted in 1802 are still in force. There has been practically little change in the equipments or methods since 1818, except that a steamboat has replaced the many-oared barge used formerly in visiting, and that by this means vessels are inspected *en route*, not being obliged to come to anchor unless detention for sickness is necessary. The structures, comprising a large hospital (sixty beds), administration building, government warehouses, etc., are well built and spacious, but antiquated. For more than half a century the establishment was the best equipped on the continent. All vessels from foreign ports and such American ports as may be designated by the Board of Health of Philadelphia, bound for the port of Philadelphia, and arriving between the first of June and the first of October, are required to come to anchor as near the Lazaretto as the draft of water will permit, and there await the visit of the quarantine officers,—the Lazaretto physician and the quarantine master. The former administers the oath or affirmation to the captain, and examines personally

* Cholera found its way through this port to the eastern portion of this country in 1817, and to the country generally in 1865. No attention is paid to the vacaenel status of immigrants unless the disease is actually on vessels. As a natural consequence small-pox has repeatedly been introduced into the interior through this port.

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