

It is reflecting upon the administration of the law and its executive machinery to permit the public health to be so endangered. It cannot be presumed that the owners of such habitations or places can have the influence, or would desire, to thwart the Authorities in doing what the public interests require, nor that there can be an object in nursing the evil rather than removing it.

In argument, however, it forms no more ground for expelling the Chinese than it would for expelling any other class of dirty people, or for legislating against any other race, white or black, amongst whom certain bad or objectionable classes were found. Proceed against the offender, whether he be black or white, but do not confound the innocent with the guilty.

Black or white.

In connection with the matters referred to in this chapter and in connection with this phase of the question comes up the oft repeated charge of leprosy and "Leprous race."

Leprosy.

On this point it may be said that particular and searching inquiry was made by the Commissioners. Dr. Helmcken, one of the oldest and most eminent physicians in the Province, who was there long before the advent of the Chinese, after remarking that the Chinese came to the country about fourteen or eighteen years ago, says: "I have never seen more than two cases of leprosy since I have been in the country, one an Indian before the Chinese arrived, and one about eight or ten years ago—this a Chinaman. With regard to the man in the prison mentioned by Sergeant Bloomfield, he came into the prison for stealing, I think, and after he arrived in the prison, the question arose as to his being a leper and that he be liberated; and I said the Chinese doctors had better see him as they were acquainted with the disease, and after doing so they said he had the leprosy, giving a certificate to that effect, and upon that certificate the man was kept in prison after his sentence had expired. He was afterwards liberated. The same man, I am informed this morning, has just been brought into prison again, not on account of leprosy but for stealing. According to the best medical authorities, leprosy is not considered a contagious or infectious disease. To-day it exists in Norway and Sweden, and also in the Mediterranean countries. I do not know that it is necessary a leper should be locked up. Leprosy is incurable, and persons so affected are usually put in some place for incurable diseases. The disease may go on for years. In the Sandwich Islands lepers are separated from the healthy. The peculiar indications of leprosy vary—in one affecting the skin, another the nervous system. The skin kind is more like syphilis. It is more or less hereditary; and in some families, there might be a leper. People residing and cohabiting with them do not take the disease. I cannot tell you whether it has been found the same in Australia, as I have no reliable information. I do not know of a single white person having leprosy in this country, only having known two cases of leprosy, as I said before, one an Indian leper, which was before the Chinese arrived, and a Chinaman. The Indian, therefore, did not contract it from the Chinese. Leprosy is not only found amongst the Chinese, but affects the whole of humanity. It has, however, disappeared from Europe, except Norway and Sweden, Finland, and the Mediterranean. There are more cases in China and the East; it seems to appertain to hot countries chiefly, and marshy places. I do not think the cause of the disease is known. Of course, now a days it is a "Bacillus." If there was a case of leprosy in Victoria now, it would be the duty of the police to report the same to the city authorities the same as a case of small-pox. I have been the visiting surgeon of the jail ever since it was built—from the time I

Dr Helmcken.

Leprosy.