

securely. A layer of lime should be placed in the bottom of a coffin, the body surrounded and covered with the same, the lid nailed and the coffin sealed. Unless a trusted individual can personally supervise the immediate burning of all bedding and personal clothing in the sickroom, it is safer to bury such in the coffin with the body. The doors of the sickroom (or house, if a Chinese home) should be immediately sealed, leaving the windows open to permit free access for sun and fresh air. Nothing other than the above-mentioned bedding and clothing must be removed for at least five days. If the room is dark, ill ventilated, and windows few, it should remain sealed for a week, and either police or soldiers enforce this quarantine.

All physicians, nurses, and investigators will naturally be dressed in full plague costume, and are therefore sufficiently protected from danger in handling the dead. If, as must often be the case, others must serve as gravediggers, and assist in burying the dead, they must be fully masked, and must never touch the body with the bare hands, but avail themselves of the sheet, ropes, iron hooks, shovels, &c., to turn and move the corpse.

In severe epidemics, it is sometimes impossible to prepare coffins enough to meet the demand, or gravediggers, or suitable burying places for such a number of coffins. Under such circumstances the body, after wrapping it in the wet sheet, should be placed on a large mat, both ends folded in, and then wrapped securely, tying with strong rope. The bodies are carried to some place, designated by the physician in charge of the plague work, distant from any village, and left lying in the sunshine. This spot should be carefully patrolled, allowing no one but plague workers to approach. At stated intervals these bodies receive cremation. The public should be informed that this method is used, not from lack of desire to conform to ordinary customs, but for their best protection from a hygienic and sanitary standpoint. The graves should be dug at least eight feet deep.

At the end of five days, or one week, as the case may be, the worker, dressed in plague costume, may enter the sickroom, and take out everything that can be moved into the sunshine. All articles that can be boiled should receive this treatment. The rest should be scrubbed with disinfectant, followed by soap and water, and left in the sunshine for ten hours. (This applies to work in villages. In hospitals much could be put through the steriliser.) The room should receive a thorough cleaning with disinfectant solution and soap and water. When dry, the ceiling, walls, native bed (*k'ang*) and

floor should be whitewashed, and the room left open to sun and air.

Although we cannot place full reliance on sun and air to kill this germ, yet we believe it must have this power to a certain extent, or the death-rate would inevitably be larger. The epidemics of pneumonic plague usually occur in the cold months, and wane with the first warm days, which would seem to add weight to the above theory. Another helpful element enters in, too, in that with less crowded conditions in inns and homes with the coming of warm weather the danger of droplet infection decreases.

From what we have said, it will be easily understood that the duties of the medical and nursing profession in this disease must lie more along the line of prevention than of cure. The first step of the plague fighters is to gain the co-operation and authority of the Government, and of the local officials in the infected region, as without this one is handicapped most seriously. Every quarantine unit must be under the direct supervision of a doctor or a graduate nurse. But many volunteer workers must be had in addition, to supplement the inevitably limited number of physicians and nurses available. The local police and soldiery can help materially in many ways, freeing the medical workers for such work as necessitates their scientific knowledge, as supervision of quarantine units and direction of plague investigation. Police or soldiers can assume the extermination of rats, squirrels, and like carriers of bubonic plague, and all which will attract such, as refuse piles, &c., in the villages infected. Cordons of police or soldiers should surround the region to prevent contacts, through fright or ignorance, from fleeing to other places and spreading the disease, or those who, despite their understanding of the possible menace to others by so doing, wilfully ignore this, in their selfish desire that their business interests shall not suffer, and who break quarantine. If railroads pass through the infected district, under the supervision of doctors, with the aid of the militia, all passengers boarding and leaving trains are inspected. In severe epidemics it often becomes necessary to entirely suspend train traffic for a period, or order that no stops be made between certain points covering the danger zone.

DESCRIPTION OF PLAGUE SUIT.—Should be made of a closely woven dark material, in one-piece suit style, including feet and hood. Snaps should be used to fasten instead of buttons, for facility in removing, as infected hands would carry the germs through the buttonholes.

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