

With Regards of the Author.

National Bureau of Medicine.
The Opium Habit and the Indian and
Chinese Opium Traffic.

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NATIONAL BUREAU OF MEDICINE
THE OPIUM HABIT AND THE INDIAN AND
CHINESE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE MEDICINE, HYGIENE,
ETC.

By M. M. CHIPMAN, M. D.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF MEDICINE.

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Society:*

Of the great benefits to be derived from government intervention to prevent the spread of infectious disease, and also to aid in the suppression of those immoral practices, vicious traffics and hurtful industries among the people, which promote the development of diseased conditions; and of further extending the work of the government, in the direction of increasing the knowledge and the means of improving the public health and the general welfare, the medical profession is so well informed, that it is something of a wonder, to some members of the profession, that our congressional branch of the government should be so slow and apathetic, in regard to the establishment of a Medical Bureau, the benefits of which, it would seem, should be so apparent to all citizens. But the fact is that the people, at large, are not well informed upon this subject, and it requires agitation, the more general and more explicit dissemination of knowledge, in regard to it, in order that the majority of the body politic shall come to understand the matter, sufficiently, to know that Congress will not be chargeable with having created a department, mostly at the instance of and in the supposed interest of the medical profession, and by it entailed an unnecessary expenditure of money, in its maintenance; and when that time arrives, Congress will be ready to assume the responsibility of the measure, and, I apprehend, not until then.

Among the most noted instances of modern government in-

tervention in the prevention of the spread of disease, was the espousal, by the British government, of the discovery and work of the philanthropic and persistent genius, Dr. Jenner, and in placing the matter of vaccination squarely before the public, and issuing instructions, as to the proper method of its application; and this authoritative endorsement of the great discovery not only caused it to be adopted in private practice in other countries, but also brought it to the attention of other governments, by which the practice was promoted and by some legally enforced; and thus this preventive measure soon prevailed throughout the civilized world, and has been the means of measurably suppressing what had theretofore been one of the most destructive, the most frequently recurring and generally prevalent of the epidemic diseases.

Asiatic cholera, coming up from its most constant habitat, in the low hot regions of India, in its incursion westward, had over-reached its former limits, and in 1830 penetrated into the countries of Europe, and during the middle decades of the present century, by its several invasions, had become the terror of the civilized world. For some years, nothing prevailed against it, but, by degrees, investigating minds were becoming agreed as to its origin and means of propagation, and, by the aid of governments and municipalities, had already devised means of arresting its progress, and limiting its extent of prevalence, when the German government, with a wisdom born of enlightened enterprise, sent forth the commission of able scientists and thorough workers, under the leadership of Professor Koch, the discoveries of which settled permanently the etiology of Asiatic cholera, and which has enabled the nations of Western Europe to so completely organize against its attacks, that its invasions, of later years, have been inconsequential, as compared with the great destruction of human life resulting from its visits at the earlier periods.

In America, we have rested behind the barriers of the European nations, raised in their own defense, and the broad natural moat which separates us from the old world, and not since the invasion of the Mississippi Valley, in 1873, has the dread disease obtained a foothold in the United States, the few sporadic cases, which have passed the quarantine barrier, having been promptly isolated by the local authorities interested, and

the germs of infection suppressed before they had opportunity of further propagating the disease.

Much has been said and written about the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis. This is a very difficult subject for legislation, and I don't see what can be done, in that direction, unless it might be to make it obligatory on physicians in practice to report what they thought to be well marked cases of tuberculosis, to the legally constituted boards of health, the duty of which it should be to summons the presented party for examination, and if the diagnosis of the physician should be confirmed, then the diseased party, to be furnished with printed instructions, as to personal conduct, to prevent the spread of the disease, especially in crowded assemblages, on railroad cars or in crowded streets, on which occasions, the infected person should be required to make use of a portable cupsidor, and the sputa and phlegm accumulated to be duly destroyed and the cupsidor disinfected. It would not be necessary that the original complaint should be sworn to, and the whole thing should be kept private, unless it might happen, in some cases, that the proceedings should be made the subject of future legal inquiry, when the original preserved complaints and the books of the board of health might be subject to examination.

In regard to diphtheria and typhoid fever, the expression has often been made that they should be "stamped out;" but not so long as faecal matter and accumulating offal of cities continue to be removed by a system which serves to maintain immense culture media for the propagation of the pathogenic microbes of those diseases, can they be stamped out. The direct method of the disposal of the offending matters has stood the test of ages. The Chinese by it have been able to keep rid of the diseases named, and also, in addition, for many centuries, by the applied recuperative power of the discarded substances, in the renovation of soil, have they continued the maintenance of their millions of population, which they could not otherwise have done. But the popular modern sentiment, that to return to any ancient method, would be retrogression, and the position of that profession, always consulted, which prompts the rejection of any system, but that which involves the most difficult engineering problems, have apparently pre-

vented even the examination into the system, for its merits, by which our antipodeal acquaintances have achieved continued success, and we continue to suffer the infliction of those dreaded diseases, which are propagated by the very methods, which we, even with greater net expenditure, unreasonably adopt to get rid of them.

La grippe, as it is popularly called, is one of our latest developed epidemic diseases, and yet it has already been prevalent in several instances in different countries in Europe, where it has attacked prince and peasant alike; and in the United States it has at different times invaded the homes of the laboring people, and crossed the threshold of the millionaire, and not infrequently attacked our most noted scientists and active medical practitioners, and it has been the cause of much inconvenience and suffering and no small aggregate of mortality; and yet, whilst, in a general sense, it is regarded as a microbic disease, but little has been ascertained as to its real etiology, and no man can say as to whither it comes or whence it goes. Had we the much needed medical bureau, we would have a corps of competent persons, salaried by the public and furnished with the necessary materials and appliances, whose business it would be to expend their energies in making investigation of new diseases, and of aiding, by furnishing hints and instructions, the work of private investigators; but without such an organization, matters of this kind are left to chance, as it were, and what is everybody's business is no one's business, and so a necessary investigation is neglected, the knowledge of its cause unascertained, the course of prevention of a fatal infectious disease, as yet, without any established system, or even precedent method of procedure having been marked out.

Leprosy, of which we have such ancient accounts, and which still continues to be a seriously prevalent disease, in some parts of the world, has been and is yet, a subject of much dispute, as to whether it is infectious or non-infectious. Foster's Encyclopædic Medical Dictionary defines it as a "chronic constitutional disease, endemic in many regions of the world, and due to infection (usually acquired by prolonged intercourse with an affected person) with bacillus lepræ." But there are many medical men, who have had good opportunities of observing

the cause, who dispute the correctness of Foster's definition.

Dr. G. L. Fitch, now resident and in practice in San Francisco, was resident and in practice in Honolulu from December, 1880, to December, 1885, four years of which time he was the physician to the Hawaiian Government, and in which capacity it was his duty to make frequent visits to the leper settlement of Molakoi and superintend its medical service; and, becoming interested in the subject, he made a study of the causation of leprosy and its manner of infection. In a lengthy paper, published in the *New York Medical Record* of September, 1892, Dr. Fitch, after extensive experience and years of close observation thereof, set forth his views in regard to its manner of propagation. He takes the position that leprosy is not an independent, separate disease of itself, but an advanced stage of syphilis, and which he denominates the fourth stage. But as the doctor does not make out a third stage as intervening between the secondary form and the condition denominated leprosy, it would appear to me to be more appropriate to call it a third stage, as the disease manifests itself, according to the doctor's paper, among nations, or with individuals, who had been, prior to the existing attack, virgin to syphilis or unaffected with any syphilitic taint. The doctor supports his views with very strong, if not conclusive, evidence; among other things, that on the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands, the inhabitants were a clean-skinned race of people, entirely unaffected with any syphilitic or leprotic taint, and that it was not until after the visits of European vessels that those people became affected with syphilis, and that on account of their social and moral habits the disease spread rapidly, and it was not by the introduction and spread of leprosy, as a separate disease, that the latter became prevalent, but as a sequence of what had become a pretty general syphilization of the native population.

In view of the importance as to whether the bacillus lepræ is an independent entity, as it involves the question of quarantine against and separate settlements for the subjects of the disease, the personal liberty of those who are affected and the public expense necessary to guard against the spread of the disease, if infectious, it is a very interesting subject and should be further investigated, and at public expense, especially since

the present political status of those islands is such as to render more extended and more direct intercourse with this country, than formerly, highly probable; and the present conditions are apparently more favorable for such investigation. This is one of the questions to be referred to the much talked of and long anticipated medical bureau to be established at our national seat of government.

Then again, we now and then have some new beverage or a new article of food placed before the public without any assurance of its wholesomeness or food value, except the unverified statements of interested parties, the most recent example of which is that of the cotton seed oil. Up to the period of the late civil war the oil of the cotton seed had been ignored, but soon "after the war" the manufacture of cotton oil was commenced and its production has become extended so that the figures by which it is furnished to the markets are placed so low that it has been measurably substituted and otherwise taken the place of the different kinds of fats which had theretofore been in use. Recently observing an article of oil in bottles labeled "pure Lucca oil," being sold by grocers of San Francisco at a price equivalent to one dollar per gallon, I had a bottle of it conveyed to the State analyst at Berkeley, who, on analysis, certified that it consisted of cotton seed oil with enough of peanut oil to increase its flavor. Inquiry among the dealers indicated it as a wholesome article of food, and it is so satisfactory to the consumers that large quantities of it are being sold; and yet who has the assurance of its wholesomeness, its readiness of emulsification or food value as compared with the fatty substances which had stood the test of the indefinite past?

But what general advance has ever been made, by any people, except at the instance of some shining example, who was able to enlist a band of enthusiastic followers whose activity and earnestness communicated an impulse to the masses, or since the advent of the founder of the religion of the present civilization, which has become enthused by the example and teachings of the Master, and willing to sacrifice in the interest of the people. It appears to me that the great want of this period is a more extended and more definite knowledge among the people of themselves, the anatomy, physiology and

requirements of the body, and the external surroundings that affect soundness of health, and by it the development of the mind; and we might naturally look to that profession which claims to furnish the leaders of reform movements to seize upon the latter-day knowledge of science, and of the human wants to perfect themselves, to a greater extent, in this direction, and to associate with themselves such members of the legal profession, as shall see in it, the advantage to their own profession in the advancement and betterment of the State and Federal laws; and both professions, united together with the medical profession, to make an advance movement to enlarge in this direction, the general educational curriculum; and with the greater light, thus developed, will arise a corresponding desire and demand for an authoritative bureau of health, of disease and prevention, at the national capital.

THE OPIUM HABIT AND THE INDIAN AND CHINESE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

There is a subject, which, from a State medical standpoint, is of great importance, of which but little information has been acquired by the medical profession of America, and of which nothing, or almost nothing, is known by the general public, and yet which is of an international character,—the opium smoking habit, and the British Indian and Chinese traffic in that drug.

The sea route to India, and the continent of America, were discovered at about the same time. Previous to 1486, the extent of the African continent southward was unknown. In that year, Bartolemeu Diaz was sent by the Portuguese government, to make explorations along the African Coast. He had got as far southward as the land's end, when there arose a westerly storm, which drove his vessel past the Cape of Good Hope, which was the first passage around the now historic cape, as far as known. Diaz would have prosecuted his discovery further, but his crew became mutinous, and he was obliged to return to Portugal. In 1497, the Portuguese government fitted out an expedition of four vessels, to follow up the discovery of Diaz, the command of which was given to the celebrated mariner, Vasco de Gama. De Gama continued on to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, until he had reached the coast of Malibar, and also visited other coast

points of India. The Portuguese traders immediately thereafter opened up a traffic with the Orient, which became extensive and exceedingly profitable. The Portuguese claimed the exclusive right to the Asiatic trade, by sea, on account of the discovery of the route and their first possession of it; but as the century progressed, the Dutch, who at the period, were enterprising mariners and irrepressible traders, pressed into the trade, notwithstanding the claims and opposition of the Portuguese.

During the greater part of the sixteenth century, the English respected the claim of the Portuguese, by the Cape of Good Hope route, but near the close of the century, after the failure of several expeditions to discover a northwest passage to Asia, or a northeast passage, the attention of English traders and capitalists had become fixed on the example of the Dutch, and the East India Company was formed in London, and an expedition, consisting of four vessels, fitted out, which arrived in India in the year sixteen hundred and opened a traffic, and the representatives of the company, sent out with the expedition, became humble suppliants for the privilege of establishing factories there. The French had also formed an East India Company, and about the middle of the eighteenth century, its traffic and territorial privileges, in India, were about equal to those of the English, when, at that period, the rivalry between the companies, with the fact of their occupying continuous territory, had resulted in a state of war, and invasions of each other's territory, defensive warfare and counter-invasions followed. The war, for a few years, was carried on with about equal success, on either side, when the British government came to the assistance of the company, which acknowledged its sovereignty, with military forces, naval vessels and able commanders, whilst the power of the French government being nearly paralyzed by the then impending revolution, it was unable to furnish the equivalent assistance to the French company. The French company, for a while, made a gallant defense, but the English company with its additional forces was able to capture position after position of the French company, until in April, 1761, the last French fort had been taken, and their last general in occupancy obliged to retire to France.

The Dutch, who were in force on the Island of Java, on the decline of the French power in India, had sent, in 1759, an expedition, evidently to enable them to supplant the French, and divide the trade and spoils with the English; but Clive, who at that time was President of the Board of Directors of the company's affairs in the Carnatic division, was not satisfied that the advantages to be gained by the recent successes of the English should be shared with another nation, sent a force, which immediately pounced upon the Dutch army, on its landing, and after being severely defeated, the Dutch expedition was forced to return to Batavia.

And thus, after the expulsion of the French, the British company was left by itself, to the control of the Indian traffic and to prosecute its enterprises in other directions; and it might appear almost incredible, with so small a display of military force, that the company should have been enabled to accomplish its complete subjugation, within so brief a period; but the great body of the people of India had been accustomed to existence, for many centuries, with no thought of earthly affairs whatever, only as each day presented itself to them, to the yielding up of their substance for revenue, and to take hold and perform any service imposed upon them by their rulers without objection, as they knew objection or dissent would be useless, and they were perfectly apathetic as to prospects or changes of rulers; and the vast territory was divided up under the domination of many rulers, as emperors, as kings and nabobs, with the special designations as existing in the Indian language; and these rulers held their positions without any sense of responsibility, only as might be imposed by their relations to the neighboring potentates; and without any aspirations for advancement of their respective countries, or for the improvement of their subjects, their lives being, for the most part, occupied in royal displays, sensual indulgence, or with schemes of rapine, or the acquisition of additional power or territory.

Occasionally an Indian ruler would apply to the English company for assistance against some other native ruler, with whom he was waging war, and the English, ever ready to promote their own interests, if the circumstances appeared favorable, would consent, and the steadiness of the English soldiers,

their use of artillery, the able planning of their leaders and the courageous and skillful conduct of their officers, insured success to whichever party the English associated themselves with. Then the native princes, ever ready to make promises beyond their means of fulfillment, together with their failure to keep track of the progress of events, on account of which they continued to levy duties on British merchandise and make attempts at enforcement of collection, after the period of such levy and their power of enforcement had passed, and these were fruitful and frequent sources of difficulty, which difficulties were always adjusted according to the English views of right and justice, with the invariable result of additional acquisition on the one side and recession and surrender on the other side, until the time had arrived at which the last native ruler had surrendered, fled the country or abdicated, and the last bit of the old India had become subject to, nominally, or in fact, passed under British domination, and that without any marked convulsion or great display of violence, such as usually attends the radical change of the rule of a vast country.

The two hundred and forty millions of India had been accursed by their rulers. The East India Company and the British Government have returned to them a part, at least, of the results of their labor in the construction of irrigation works, the building of railroads and in other needed improvements and some little in the establishment of schools; and, in a measure realizing the more equitable rule, and the increased kindness of the new management, the people of India have become favorably impressed with the change. The occupation by the British has protected the people of India from the inroads of their barbarous neighbors, and from their internecine strife, and has relieved them of the more burdensome and most unreasonable practices of the native religion; but there is an exception, a very marked exception, to the beneficence of the British rule in India, which should be considered a disgrace to a nation, which has been an important agent in the dissemination of Christianity, of the principles of justice and in the promotion of progress, for the later centuries.

Warren Hastings first went to India, in 1750, at eighteen years of age, to take service with the East India Company, as

a writer or copyist. He was well qualified, of good habits, industrious and ambitious, and soon achieved a reputation, which put him in the line of promotion, and after having filled many positions, of successively increasing importance and responsibility, on the completion of the conquest, and the consolidation of the different departments in 1774, so that the affairs of the company could be conducted under one head, was elected by the English Directorate, the chief executive officer; and thus Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India. In that capacity it was his duty to devise means of revenue and set the wheels of the reconstructed Government in motion.

The opium yielding poppy was grown in India, to a limited extent, and although the use of opium, for other than medicinal purposes, was forbidden by the religion of the country and also by the laws of the native rulers, the edicts of some of the princes, even affixing death as the penalty, enough was indulged in against creed and against law to enable Hastings to see that the production of opium and traffic in it, under the control of the Government, could be made a very profitable business and he set to work, stimulated the production of the poppy plant, supplying any means lacking required for the purpose, established factories for the conversion of the drug into the form for its more popular use, established agencies, and issued licenses for its sale; and so the traffic thereby became an established commerce, subject to the exclusive domination of the Indian Government. In 1785, it became expedient for Hastings to resign the General-Governership, and return to England. Subsequently, when charged with misdemeanors and high crimes in his administration of the affairs of the East India Company, and arraigned for trial, before the House of Lords, the opium traffic being one of the accusations, Warren Hastings defended himself against this charge, by self-justification, and exclaimed that he claimed great credit for the establishment of this source of revenue. The East India Company continued to carry on the opium traffic, and it increased in proportion, up to the time at which the company was superseded by the British Government assuming control of India in 1858. Since that period the same course of production, manufacture and traffic has been pursued by the British Government.

We can understand something of the results by imagining it possible for our Government to take possession and control of the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, and then, instead of endeavoring to suppress the evil of intemperance, were to encourage the use of such beverages for the sake of the revenue to be derived from their manufacture and sale; and yet the subject people of India are obliged to submit to a more ruinous course, as regards themselves, by the British Government, because they are unable to resist the imposition. Individuals in great numbers have been ruined by the use of the drug, and numerous families brought to a state of poverty and misery by it, and whole tribes of people have, such a proportion of them, become victims to the opium habit, that it has had the effect to lessen their manliness of character, to cause national deterioration of moral status and physical and mental capacity, and yet in its greed for revenue, the British Government continues the course, which was first inaugurated by Warren Hastings. Indeed, this cultivation of the poppy, production of opium, manufacture into the smoking article and the traffic therein, is an industry of itself of considerable magnitude, being not only for the India trade, but also for the Chinese trade, and the trade with other countries, wherever it can be disposed of. At the factory at Patna alone, three thousand persons are employed; two hundred British soldiers keep constant guard, and the flag of Great Britain, that flag which the British boast has "braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years," floats over the establishment, and the manufactured article, which is turned out in the form of balls, has each ball, stamped upon it, the initials of the Empress of India, V. R. & I.

The opium trade with China was also developed under the auspices of Warren Hastings whilst Governor-General. He first sent two ships to Chinese ports, loaded with opium, which he directed to be given away. The following season he sent two more shiploads, which were sold at a low price, and thereafter the price was raised, as the increased appetite created a demand, until the trade became very profitable, although against the Chinese laws, the remonstrances of the Government and the Emperor's imperial and earnest protest. The two wars which have been waged by Great Britain upon

China, in each instance of which the opium traffic formed a part of the originating cause, accentuate the pertinacity with which the British Government has continued to perpetrate this monstrous imposition upon the Chinese nation.

It is impracticable to present this matter in detail, but the opposition to the traffic manifested by the most loyal subjects of Great Britain, the most intelligent, most thoughtful and most patriotic of her citizens, including some of her best and brightest statesmen, as well as many petitions and remonstrances, from out of the darkness of the more extended limits of the empire furnish, the arguments and the evidences against its past and present maintenance and its future continuance, of which the following is a brief and faithful summary of the more extended indictment. The licensed opium traffic in India and the enforced traffic upon China, is the greatest national sin and the most far-reaching in its consequences perpetrated by any nation of the century. In its quiet but uninterrupted sweep of destruction it has caused, so far as numbers alone are involved, greater loss of human life than has the periodic war spirit, the belligerent moods and the actual collisions, with the sequelæ, so frequently entailed, of interrupted health than has all the warring among the nations. It has increased the aggregate death-rate more than has the sometimes interpreted providential agencies, or any of the naturally developed infectious epidemic diseases, during the century. It has caused more helplessness and degradation, a wider spread impoverishment, a greater aggregate of suffering and misery than has any other of the agencies of the indulgence of appetite gratification or of sensual pleasure. It has blocked the wheels of progress in the matter of the dissemination of Christian truth and obstructed the advance of civilization more than has any other obstacle.

The people of India and of China, more observant of the hand which proffers the poisoned chalice, and connecting the proffer with the professions of Christianity, regard the whole matter as parts of the same scheme to rob them of their earnings and depress the nation's vitality, and look with disgust upon the claims of kindness and the professions of love, as set forth by the missionaries, and the expressions of disinterestedness as the rankest hypocrisy; and thus the greater part of the

people feel disposed to reject and oppose the whole thing where permitted to do so.

The claims for the necessity of revenue are not worthy of consideration by a people of as much financial ability as are the English, and in the government of a docile people in a country of the natural opulence of India; and the setting forth the expenditure for schools, a mere pretext to cover the real purpose, the acquisition of the money involved, because by and through this source of revenue the pay of those concerned in the administration of the affairs of the empire are increased thereby, and the opportunities of speculation more frequent and more extended, and the accumulation of private fortunes more rapid and more expanded; and it is the latter consideration and the influence of the class of men concerned which have continued to dominate in Parliament and with the aggregate majority of the ministry, which has continued the perpetuation of this unjust, unhallowed and destructive system. These are hard things to say of a nation whose head citizen is designated Her Most Christian Majesty and Defender of the Faith; but the facts are there and the conditions are there, and to any one who may doubt the strictness of this statement, or think it in any wise exaggerated, if possessing any interest to make it desirable, I would extend invitation to make the investigation for himself, although it requires time and study, the facilities for which are not abundant in America as the literature concerning it is scant and not easy to find, American writers rarely mentioning it, English writers disinclined to even allude to it, and the modern histories of India, so far as I was able to ascertain, entirely ignoring this important matter.

The only work which I was able to find, which treats the subject exhaustively, is a book, "England's Greatest National Sin," written by the Rev. H. H. T. Cleife, an Episcopal clergyman, the rector of an established church. The author exhibits intense loyalty to the British Government and speaks admiringly of the Indian Government in other respects, but conceived it his duty to expose this great sin for the benefit of the British Government and the people of India and of China, and the information of the English people. It is a very rare book in America, but having seen a single copy of it in the

Mechanics' Institute, and desiring to become possessed of the work, I was unable to find it for sale in San Francisco, neither in New York, but was obliged to obtain the book through the kind offices of a local book-dealer who ordered it through a purchasing agency from the place of its publication in the City of London.

This matter would be a pertinent subject of discourse for those engaged in the dissemination of useful information to the American public. I would further suggest that, as it is obviously of an international character, a convention should be called to consider it, to be participated in by the philanthropically disposed of all nations, and that the place to hold it in to be the British metropolis, as not only the central location of interest in the subject, but also as a focus of civilization and of humanization, with the object of assisting the English sentiment, opposed to its perpetuation, and also of directing general public attention to the demoralizing and devastating evil. And California is the fit locality for the suggestion to emanate from, since we have already suffered not a little from the influence of the corrupting traffic upon our local police force, and the federal, detective and civil service employees, in the matter of the collection of duties, in the importation of the drug, and of the habit, with the immigration from those countries already affected by it.

Much pains has been taken to defend the British Government in its opium traffic, in India and in China, and statements given out, sometimes from pretended scientific sources, that it is not hurtful to the people of those nations. But don't we know better? It is the same old thing, the defense of the greedy and the selfish, which has come down to us from the immemorial past, in their struggle against right and justice, that they may be enabled to continue in their greedy and selfish practices, and should be disregarded.



