

Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

VOL. XII.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 9, 1897.

No. 28.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Infectious disease of parrots.

77-79 RUE NOTRE DAME DES CHAMPS,
Paris, France, June 15, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your consideration a clipping from the Paris edition of the New York Herald of June 13, 1897, relative to psittacosis, an infectious disease of parrots, communicable to man.

In the past few years there have been two distinct outbreaks of the disease in Paris, attended by a considerable mortality, and there is every probability that the suspicious, and up to this time unexplained, outbreak of an infectious disease in Marseilles during the months of January and February of the present year may in all probability be traced to the same cause. For this statement I have the highest authority, and I submit the article, as it serves, in a measure, to clear up what was a perplexing mystery to me, and concerning which I fully realized the unsatisfactory nature of my report upon Marseilles. The probability is rendered all the stronger by a recollection of the neighborhood in which the outbreak occurred, one of the houses, as it will be remembered, being used as a bird store, making a specialty of East Indian parrots.

Very respectfully,

H. D. GEDDINGS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

Yellow fever in Panama.

PANAMA, June 25, 1897.

SIR: If the cases of yellow fever are less than they have been, it is because the scourge is lacking in material to fasten its clutches upon. So I am told by the best authority on yellow fever here, a native physician that has practiced here for forty years. The Panamaians never get it, and foreigners that are acclimated are fairly secured. This same doctor tells me that a foreigner who has lived nine years in Panama is as safe from the disease as a native Panamaian. So far as my experience here goes, I believe this to be correct. The Panama Canal is receiving mechanics and engineers from France twice a month. These people as they arrive are at once sent to a camp some twenty miles from here, in the mountains at an altitude of some 700 feet. There they are safe, and they will go to work as soon as the epidemic disappears. All of them would very likely die if they were allowed to go to work here now, as sad experience shows.

As I have stated before to the State Department and to you, I believe the trouble is due to the fact that vessels are never disinfected here, although people have died from yellow fever on all of them. I refer to steamers coming from the South. The fever has come from Guayaquil here, and it is with us now in earnest.

Four Americans died here last week.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

VICTOR VIFQUAIN,
United States Consul-General.

Yellow fever decreasing in Panama.

[Cablegrams.]

WASHINGTON, July 6, 1897.

UNITED STATES CONSUL-GENERAL, *Panama, Colombia:*

If medical assistance needed to enforce quarantine regulations, nominate physician, \$100 per month. Same at Colon if necessary. Can send physicians if none available. Wire reply, giving estimated number yellow cases.—WYMAN, *Surgeon-General.*

PANAMA, July 7, 1897.

WYMAN, *Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Yellow decreasing; 10 cases; writing.—VIFQUAIN.