

AN AFFLICTED PEOPLE BRIGHT FROM A WING OF HOPE

Director of Leprosy Investigation Announces Cure Has Been Made—Only in Late Years Has Science Held Out Any Hope to the Afflicted—Methods of Solving the Problem

By Edward P. Irwin.
LEPER HAS BEEN cured! The enemy that for thousands of years has baffled medical skill and mocked the tireless efforts of scientific men has been vanquished. The most horrible and specious of diseases is no longer incurable. A man has been brought back from the living death!

This announcement has startled the medical and scientific world and infused hope into the hearts of thousands of hopeless scattered throughout the world was made a few weeks ago by two physicians who for years have been working to find a solution of the problem that heretofore has confounded the disciples of Asclepius. The problem that baffled the men of medicine for thousands of years even before the time of the great physician of Greece.

Dr. Walter R. Brinckerhoff, director of the leprosy investigation station in Hawaii, and Dr. James T. Wayson, member of the board of health of the territory of Hawaii, men who announce that they have cured a case of leprosy. Each of them has been fighting this disease for many years, confident that, although for centuries the disease had been pronounced incurable, there must be some cure for it and that indefatigable effort and perseverance would in time discover the remedy.

Before this there have been many cures of leprosy announced, but they proved to be fraudulent—merely the advertising of fakers seeking to exploit some patent medicine warranted to cure all the ills that mankind is heir to from chilblains to a broken heart. Scientific men knew that there was no cure for leprosy, and were weary of the terrible disease against the quick medicines of unscrupulous frauds.

No Hope Held Out.

It is only of comparatively late years that science has held out any hope to the leper. The first gleam of light came with the acceptance of the bacteriological theory of disease, and later, when the bacillus leprae was discovered and isolated, medical men became certain that in time a cure would be found for even this most terrible and baffling of diseases. Since that time bacteriologists all over the world have been working on the problem, endeavoring to find a remedy for the White Death. In every civilized country in the world the work has been carried on, for leprosy is not confined to a few races, as is commonly supposed, but it is to be found among the people of virtually every nation in the world.

Sensation Created.

Some years ago a sensation was created in New York society when an announcement was made of the engagement of one of the reigning belles of the season to Dr. Walter R. Brinckerhoff, coupled with the startling statement that after their marriage they would go to Hawaii to live in the leper settlement of Molokai, where the doctor would devote his whole life to trying to find a cure for leprosy. The yellow journals all over the country expatiated in columns after starting columns on the heroic deed of the doctor and his bride who was giving up all the comforts of her palatial New York home and going to live in a remote and desolate spot with her heroic husband to live among the lepers, inevitably to die the most hideous of deaths—all for the sake of love!

Man Was Cured.

On December 26, 1907, a Hawaiian leper, whose name the doctors withhold on account of the injury that is inevitably done any man who is accused of being a leper, was placed under the new treatment, known as the Naitin treatment. And a few weeks ago Dr. Brinckerhoff and Dr. Wayson reported to the board of health of the territory of Hawaii that the man treated was cured.

Invades Settlement.

It was not at all necessary for the scientist to go to the leper settlement in order to do his work. At Honolulu there is an institution known as the Kalili Receiving Station, where leper suspects are taken for examination, and whence, if it is discovered that they have the disease, they are taken to Molokai. It was at this receiving station that Dr. Brinckerhoff set up his laboratory and conducted his experiments.

FASHIONABLE CAT AND DOG CEMETERY

By Reginald Carter.
LONDON, Nov. 14.—English people and especially Londoners have a peculiar fondness for all animals, particularly dogs and cats. "Love me love my dog"—or cat—is a motto that might well be placed over most London households. Last year a London society dame had a \$10,000 necklace made for her pet dog, while in Park Lane two upper floors of a splendid mansion are given up entirely to dogs that are waited on by their own grooms and cooked for by special chefs. Even after their death the pets of the elite find their way into an exclusive cemetery which occupies a portion of Hyde Park, London's most aristocratic open space. The cemetery is situated in the back of the park, near the Lancaster gate entrance of the park. Hidden away in a shrubbery, the general public know nothing of its existence. Ever and anon there may be seen, as the dime novels say, a little cortege stopping at this spot, which some well-dressed woman will bear a tiny coffin containing the last mortal remains of "Fido" or "Tabby," as the case may be. The saying goes, levels all distinctions and truly the dead dogs in this case, for dogs and cats are buried in the same cemetery. Monuments designed by the best artists and elaborately wrought in marble from the best quarries tell of the passing of the pet of the plutocrat.

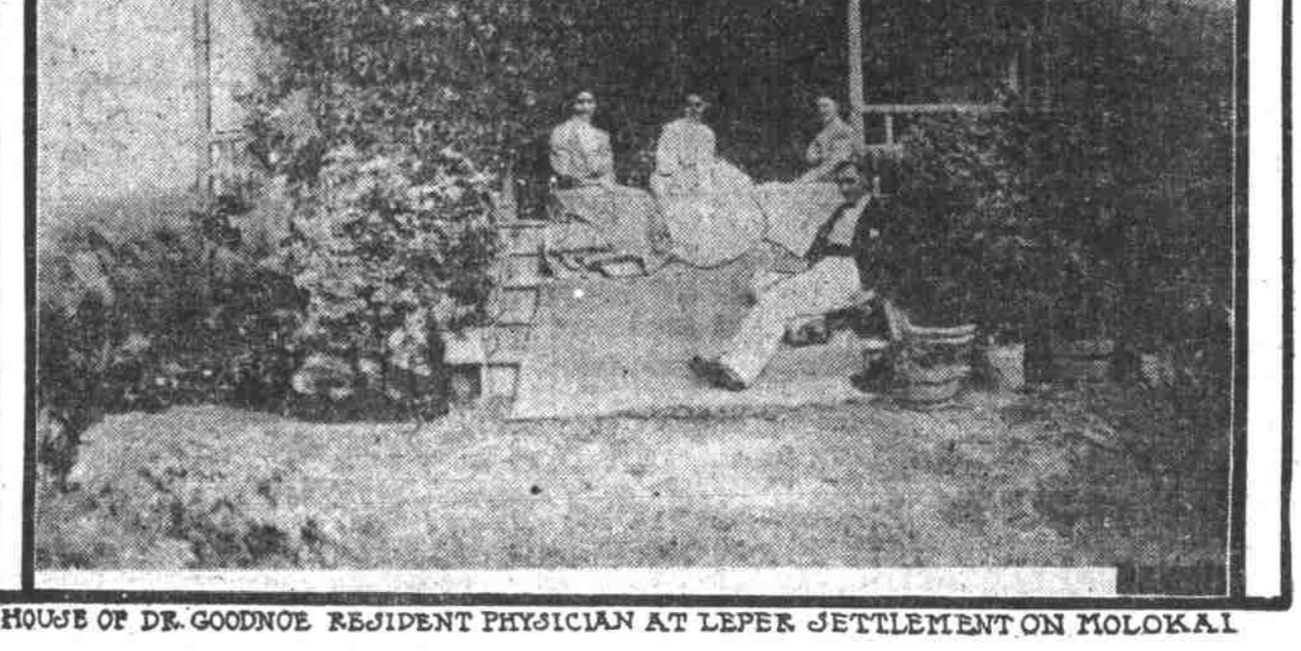
THE VILLAGE OF KALAWAO A PART OF THE LEPER SETTLEMENT ON MOLOKAI.

Austria-Hungary discovered and described a treatment for leprosy. This was rather in the way of an experiment than an announced actual cure for the disease. But as the greatest leper settlement in the world is located in Hawaii, the treatment was sent to Dr. Brinckerhoff, by the United States government for him to experiment with. That was a little more than a year ago. At that time the government, under the supervision of Dr. Brinckerhoff, was preparing to erect on the island of Molokai, at Kalawao, one of the two villages that form the leper settlement, a great hospital and experiment station for the treatment of leprosy, where it was proposed that the foremost men of science in the world, along this particular line of work, should be in an effort to find a cure for the disease that for thousands of years had been reckoned incurable. The leper settlement had been prepared and the ground was being cleared preparatory to the erection of the buildings. But nothing further had been done.

Meantime, Dr. Brinckerhoff had set up a temporary laboratory at the Kalili Receiving Station, where he was in connection with Dr. James T. Wayson, he determined to begin his experiments without waiting for the completion of the leprosiarium.

He has been under our care since December 26, 1907, at the Kalili Receiving Station. He has shown such improvement in his general condition and in his specific lesions that it seems probable that he will be able to return to his home in Hawaii.

There are people at the Leper settlement of Molokai who are devoting their lives to the lepers, but they are not the hit-and-miss volunteers whose announced self-immolation on the altar of charity is so widely heralded.



HOUSE OF DR. GOODNOE, RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT LEPER SETTLEMENT ON MOLOKAI.

Jack McVeigh is the superintendent of the settlement, and he lives there with his family and certain assistants. There is also Dr. Goodnoe, the resident physician, and besides these there are the Catholic brothers and the Sisters of Mercy, who care for the unfortunates condemned to end their days in this beautiful place of death.

Danger there certainly is, to a certain extent, but it is nowhere near so great as it is commonly supposed. In all the fifty odd years of the settlement only two or three of those in care of the lepers have ever contracted the disease. The most notable one was Father Damien—and it is known that he got the leprosy by his careless—not to say dirty—habit of kissing the faces of the martyrs which would never have been his had he had any idea of sanitation and the ordinary laws of health.

Of course, there is always the danger that the disease may at any time develop in any of the workers, for they are constantly exposed to contagion. But so long as they are ordinarily careful, there is no great danger.

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times its course is extremely rapid and ends its results in a few years. At other times it is a slow and insidious process, quiescent for many years. Some of the inmates of the Molokai leper settlement, which is situated in the outward manifestations of the disease for 20 years or more. And yet, suddenly active again and the body distinguishes in a relatively short time.

Nine Hundred Lepers.

There are now about 900 lepers on Molokai, the majority of them Hawaiians. There are a few white men, and a good many from other countries. The Caucasian is much less susceptible to the disease than the people of darker skin. In China it is roughly estimated that there are in the neighborhood of 100,000 lepers. Japan has probably 100,000. India has an incredible number, as have nearly all other parts of Asia.

There is one feature of the territory of Hawaii's management of its leper settlement which cannot be too strongly condemned. That is the policy of the leper men and women to marry and bring children into the world. For many years this policy has been adding greatly to the number of unfortunates in the settlement and postponing indefinitely the day when the disease shall be stamped out entirely.

Cases of Birth.

Fortunately a woman who has leprosy is in the majority of instances sterile, but too often the opposite is the case. A child born of leper parents is rarely, if ever, a leper at birth, but the disease is sucked in with the mother's milk, and it is only of late years that a child born in the leper settlement had the slightest chance of escaping contagion. Some years ago, however, an institution was established in Honolulu to remove the girls, who are known as the Kapiolani Girls' Home. To this charitable institution are removed the girls whose parents are born into the world. And the value of the institution is demonstrated by the fact that of the children thus removed from their parents, less than one in 20 ever develops the disease.

But the boy babies? There has been no case of leprosy among them, and they are allowed to remain with their parents at the leper settlement, where they invariably contract the disease and fade away into graves in the cemetery. However, the legislature of Hawaii appropriated a sum of money for a boys' home, which will be opened in a few months, and now a site has been selected and there is hope for the unfortunate male children.

Will Take Over Settlement.

It is probable, however, that in time the federal government will take over the settlement, which will then be made a general leper settlement wherein will be placed all lepers found in the United States. And when this is done, there is little reason to doubt that Uncle Sam will remove the girls from the practice of allowing the mating of the lepers and the bearing of children by them.

It is a horrible fact that leprosy was scattered throughout the Hawaiian Islands by vaccination. About 50 years ago the Hawaiian Islands were the scene of smallpox which carried off thousands of natives. The doctors in an effort to stop the disease vaccinated the natives with the vaccine virus. In the hurry of the moment, in many cases taken from the arm of one patient and transferred to the arm of another, some of those from whom it was taken were lepers—lepers who bore no outward signs of the disease which had no doubt been contracted by them.

But there is hope now for the hapless victims of this terrible disease. The announcement made by Doctors Brinckerhoff and Wayson that the Naitin treatment has proved successful and that leprosy has been cured in a case is considerably less than a year is the longest step that has been taken by medicine since the time when Pasteur's discoveries of Pasteur and his disciples. It means that there is hope that this most hideous of terrors is to be conquered. Make a leper patient be submitted to a re-examination to determine if he is suffering from leprosy.

HOUSE OF DR. GOODNOE, RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT LEPER SETTLEMENT ON MOLOKAI.

While at the settlement that writer was told a story that goes to show to what a comparatively slight extent the dreaded disease is transmissible. A Hawaiian was found to have the leprosy and was sent to Molokai. His wife accompanied him, as was at that time the custom, and she remained with him until she contracted the disease. She married a third—and he died. And now she is the wife of a fourth leper—and she herself is free from the disease.

Much Exploited.

Molokai has been much exploited by many sensational writers, most of whom knew little about their subject, and hundreds of columns have been printed which dealt generally in inaccuracies. It appears to be the common belief that ships going to the island, and for the lepers, carry with them the disease, and that the wind blowing off the land carries with it contagion.

Danger of Disease.

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SALOME AND HER DANCE OF ABANDON

By Mrs. John A. Logan.
IT is astonishing that in these days of advanced civilization anything so vulgar as the Salome dance should be received with favor, or that refined people should tolerate such an exhibition.

Those who have witnessed the performance admit it is shocking in every sense of the word. And the fact that the designing Herodias used the agility of her daughter Salome to beguile Herod, the king of Judah, into a promise to grant the danseuse whatever she might ask of him, crazily causing the girl to demand the "head of St. John the Baptist," is a thing which should be received with favor, or that refined people should tolerate such an exhibition.

Undesirables?

From the New York American.
If President Roosevelt does write a play, what a lot of villains there will be in it!

BOYS, MAKE CONFIDANTS OF YOUR FATHERS

By Clara Reese.
SPEAK UP and tell your father, or your boy and tell your mother, which he may make shall be as nothing compared with your present mental torture. Make a clean breast to him, no matter what the trouble is. You need the advice of an experienced hand.

You are facing the law, perhaps, for hot-tempered or thoughtless misdeed; or you have taken the unlucky step, or spoken the unlucky word; or you are in bonds and fetters. Or, you are ill through disobedience, a chill from the forbidden river swim, or injured through fall from height you were commanded not to climb, or suffering from a wound from a weapon you should not have carried or handled. You have transgressed, been indifferent and are facing a crisis of some kind.

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