

Friday, 25th April (eighth day).—Visited case at 9 a.m. Diarrhoea continued, and there was a tendency towards collapse in earlier hours of morning. Temperature 100·8°. Urine scanty but frequent, and passed involuntarily; no albumen present. Pulse 84, but weak and irregular. Respirations 28. On examining the sputum coughed up during the night previously it was found to contain large numbers of bacilli—showing bipolar staining, and resembling in every way those present in the bubo. During the afternoon Dr. Mason visited the patient and administered 5 c.c. of Yersin's serum. He also inoculated the nurses with Haffkine's serum. During evening patient was violently delirious, and Dr. Horsfall, the resident physician, attended, and ordered a draught containing chloralamide. This, however, had very little effect. Owing to the tendency to collapse, Dr. Mason ordered the legs to be bandaged up to thighs. Much care was exercised by the nurses to prevent passive congestion of lungs—the back of the chest being rubbed with turpentine liniment, and the position of the patient altered as far as the conditions would permit. It was, however, necessary, owing to his violent delirium, to keep guide-straps on the wrists.

Saturday, 26th April (ninth day).—Visited case at 9.30 a.m. He was much weaker. Temperature 101°. Pulse 130, and respiration 36, being hurried and irregular. Diarrhoea had been very troublesome during the night. Dr. Mason and I visited the patient again at 2.30 p.m., when 5 c.c. of Yersin's serum was administered, and ordered to be repeated in three hours' time. Bromide was administered, and the injections of strychnine and digitalin increased in frequency. An abundant crop of petechiæ was present on the skin of the abdomen and thighs. I saw him again at 9.30 p.m., when he seemed less delirious, but weaker. Temperature was rising again—102·8°. In the evening it was noticed that the guinea-pig inoculated from the gland-tissue was beginning to show signs of weakness—loss of appetite, coat rough. This was on the third day after inoculation.

Sunday, 27th April (tenth day).—At 2 p.m. Dr. Mason and I saw the patient, who was collapsed and unconscious. Nurse reported that he had taken nourishment well up till midday. Saline injections were ordered per rectum, and the Yersin's serum and stimulants four-hourly as before. Temperature had been rising steadily since Friday night, and reached 104° during evening, when we again saw the case about 9 p.m. During the evening Dr. Mason despatched a friend of V.'s in a cab to bring Mrs. V. to see the patient. Till then (the ninth day since removed) the family had been kept isolated. Virtue was partially conscious of his wife's arrival. He had taken little in the way of nourishment all day, except some champagne. Temperature continued to rise steadily, and pulse towards midnight could scarcely be counted, being weak and fluttering.

Monday, 28th April (eleventh day).—In view of the patient being almost moribund, Dr. Mason decided to permit the attendance of the clergyman. Accordingly, at 2 a.m. Dr. Mason and I visited the house of Rev. Mr. Budd, Church of England Chaplain to the Hospital, and accompanied him to the bedside of the patient, where a short service was held. I remained at the Hospital afterwards, and saw the patient at 3.45 a.m. He was then quite unconscious and moribund, and died quietly shortly afterwards. The temperature just before death rose to 107° Fahr. At 7.30 a.m. I performed a *post-mortem* examination of the body, examining only the abdominal cavity and contents and the bubo. During this examination the body was placed on a stretcher, covered with a large mackintosh sheet and a linen sheet soaked in formalin 1–20. When the examination was complete I wrapped the sheet and mackintosh closely round the body, and fastened them there, and it remained undisturbed until the body and stretcher were placed in the crematorium.

Disposal of the Body.

The crematorium attached to the Plague Hospital had been prepared on the day previously in order to dispose of the clothing, &c., used in the treatment of the case. The fire was therefore lit already, and during the forenoon of Monday, 28th, fuel was added, until at 2 p.m. it was considered sufficiently hot for use. A carcase of a sheep was placed in it during the forenoon as a test, and was consumed in from three to four minutes.

At 2.30 p.m. the Rev. Mr. Budd was in attendance, and, accompanied by Dr. Mason, Dr. Collins, and myself, the stretcher, still containing the body wrapped as above, was conveyed to the crematorium, where the usual burial service was read. Then the body and stretcher were placed in the chamber, and the doors closed. The fires were kept up during the afternoon, but towards night they were allowed to sink, and at 10 p.m. Dr. Mason and I attended and removed the ashes. They were placed in a coffin, which had meantime been prepared. The process of combustion had been quite complete, and had taken place rapidly without any unpleasant smell or smoke. The coffin-lid was fastened down by Dr. Mason, and on the following day the usual funeral ceremony was conducted by the friends of the deceased.

Three days later, during which time the furnace was permitted to cool, I attended to the drawing of the fires, and personally removed any traces of the cremation, a few fragments of bone having fallen down between the fire-bars. The heat had been very intense, and the bars had in many instances fused or burned away altogether. So far as the disposal of the body was concerned, the process had been very satisfactory, while all that sentiment demanded in the way of the reverent and ceremonious treatment of the dead was performed to the satisfaction of the clergyman in attendance.

PATHOLOGICAL REPORT.

The first efforts at diagnosis of this case of plague, by means of serum drawn on the second and fourth days of illness from the bubo by hypodermic syringe, proved abortive. Neither by direct examination nor culture could I find any organism to guide me. A pipette of serum was sent to Mr. Gilruth, Pathologist to the Department, who also reported it to be sterile.

On the fourth day of illness a portion of the gland was removed by Dr. Collins, and a smear preparation from this, stained with weak carbol-fuchsin, exhibited a large number of short bacilli with rounded ends, taking the stain more deeply at the poles. These bacilli were decolourised by