

this has only been lately adjusted, yet over 2,250 were vaccinated, and 1,728 of these were done by us. We noticed that the lymph had different effects upon different children, the scar being most deep and pronounced in the pure Maori, not so deep in the half-caste, and least of all in the quarter-caste, proving, perhaps, the immunity that has been established by successive years of vaccination. From the present outlook we hope to have the Native population safe by the end of another year—at least, as far as small-pox is concerned.

LEPROSY.

The traditional obnoxiousness of leprosy has been so well handed down to us that we shriek out most terribly against it, and yet it is not half as bad as consumption. Perhaps if tuberculosis took on the hideousness of leprosy more stringent measures would be taken in regard to its spread.

Leprosy has long been known in New Zealand—at least, amongst the Maoris. The earliest mention of it dates back to the migration from Hawaiki, and perhaps that is why it sometimes went by the name of *tu Hawaiki*; and if the Maori truly came from Hawaii, as some ethnologists would lead us to believe, this would in a measure prove that theory, as leprosy is most common in the Hawaiian Islands. If tradition is to be credited it must have been fairly common at one time, but perhaps the strict laws of the ancient Maori concerning the isolation of these cases were vigorously carried out, and that is why it is not so general now. I have been informed by Captain Mair and some old Maoris that it has always been known in the Taupo district. There is the well-known pathetic legend concerning Te Rohu, a once renowned beauty of the inland seas. It is related that she was smitten with leprosy, and forthwith she composed a most touching lament concerning her lost beauty and prestige. This lament may still be heard sung in the quiet of the evenings along the shores of the great lake by some of her lineal descendants. Leprosy went under the different names of *ngerengere*, *mate*, *tu whenua*, *tu Hawaiki*, and *mutumutu* amongst the Maoris, and was generally supposed to be the work of some evil *tohunga*, so if the incantations of another *tohunga* could be found more potent than the bewitching one the effects became counteracted, and thus the patient was cured. Whether any got well in this manner we can only leave to conjecture.

The alarming report which was circulated a while back that there were forty or fifty cases amongst the Maoris proved to be untrue. During the past year I have examined a number of alleged cases of leprosy, but found them to be mostly cases of *lupus vulgaris*, syphilis of the tubercular form, gangrene, and ichthyosis. We have, however, come across three typical and true cases of leprosy—one in the Raglan district, one up the Wanganui River, and one—a woman—in the Taupo district. Complete isolation has been attempted in all three cases; but, knowing the utter impossibility of completely isolating Maoris, we can only feel safe when all the lepers in the country are deported to some island where they can be carefully looked after, and be secure from spreading the disease. Attached are the photographs which I took of two of the cases.

Case A.

My attention was first called to this case by Mr. Wilkinson, the Government Agent at Otorohanga, King-country. As soon as I was able I went to find the patient, but was informed that he had gone away. I left instructions to have him brought to Rangiriri on the following week, so that I could see him. I went back on the 28th May, and found the patient awaiting me. I then proceeded to make an examination. I visited this case again on the 12th June with Dr. Makgill, when a further examination was made, and smears were taken from the nodules and sections for bacteriological investigation. We made careful examination of the smears, and found the bacilli of leprosy. A section of an ulcerated nodule was sent to Mr. Gilruth, and the result of his examination revealed granulomatous tissue with typical bacilli of leprosy. The Natives were persuaded to isolate him, and with that purpose in view they erected a small raupo whare for him apart from the rest. They promised to burn everything that would come in contact with his sores, and they also promised to carry out all the suggestions that were made *re* his care, &c.

Age about fifty-four years. Married. Has children who are grown up, and three little ones, the youngest being about eight years of age. All are healthy except the youngest child, who was ill with pneumonia when I examined her father.

Ætiology.—Always been healthy (as far as Maoris are), except once when he had "*mate o te ao*" (probably gonorrhœa or syphilis). Has drunk some and smoked; has, in fact, lived like most of the Maoris—crowded whares, bad ventilation, irregular meals, bad nutrition, &c.

History of Present Illness.—About six years ago he noticed a small white blister-like swelling on his right knee, which eventually broke, and an indolent superficial ulcer resulted. From this time on bulbous eruptions came on different parts of his body, principally on his hands and fingers, which at the present are much swollen and very vascular. He has small white patches of skin in parts. His face is much swollen, and presents the typical leonine appearance. His nose is discoloured and swollen out of proportion. The eyes are much inflamed and the voice husky. The reflexes are lost, and there is anæsthesia of the feet and hands. The fingers have become rotten at the tips and around the nails, and are nearly always bleeding. There are scattered nodules all over his body, and in parts these have broken down, leaving ulcers which bleed very freely. There is some atrophy of his legs and arms.

Case B.

My attention was first called to this case about a year ago by some Natives, who, however, would not or could not enlighten me as to the sufferer's whereabouts, and the matter was passed over for a case of syphilis, as he had been treated for that malady previously. On the evening of the 6th December I again heard of his case from Mr. Taylor, a schoolmaster of Raurikia, and I