

61. Did he not give you a reason why your brother should not be removed?—He said my brother was too ill to be removed. I said that I would like Dr. Thacker to see my brother. He did not know then, however, that Dr. Thacker was already out at Berhampore.

62. At Berhampore?—Yes, he went out to Berhampore when I asked him.

63. Was that before or after you had been told that they would not tolerate any civilian interference?—He was there while I was ringing up Dr. Harrison. Dr. Harrison told me he would be there at 2.30 in the afternoon, and would meet me. He came out and shook hands with me. He said, "Your brother is in a very critical state." I did not say anything about Dr. Thacker having been out.

64. I understand that on the Thursday morning you saw the Hon. Mr. Rhodes?—Yes, and I told him that I wanted to get an independent report to see if there was any chance of saving his life at all.

65. And did you tell him what Dr. Harrison had told you?—Yes, I told Mr. Rhodes that I had spoken to Dr. Harrison, and that he objected to any civilian interference. Mr. Rhodes said, "I suppose it is a matter of medical etiquette." He said, "I will see what I can do."

66. Was there any talk about a particular doctor?—Yes, Mr. Ell suggested Dr. Herbert.

67. You suggested Dr. Herbert to Mr. Rhodes?—Yes; and this is the wire he sent me: "Have arranged consultation between Dr. Herbert and Dr. Harrison, but time not yet fixed. Will wire you as soon as I know time." Then he wired me later to say that the time had been fixed for 4.30 that afternoon.

68. You were telling the Commission before the adjournment that you arranged through Mr. Rhodes for a consultation between Dr. Harrison and Dr. Herbert?—Yes.

69. Did that consultation take place?—I got another telegram from Mr. Rhodes, "Try arrange consultation at Berhampore Fever Hospital at 4.30 this afternoon." That was on the Thursday. I was there when the consultation took place.

70. Did they report to you what they thought of the case?—There were two patients there, both dying, and they examined the two of them. I asked the doctor's opinion, and he said he was very sorry to say he did not think he had one chance in a million of recovering. Both doctors said that.

71. What did you do then?—I wired straight home for the father and sister to come up. They arrived on the Friday morning.

72. Were they in time to find the brother alive?—Yes. The nurse rang me up about 5.30 that morning and asked me if I could come out. I told her I had to meet the boat with my father and sister, and did she think he would last till they came, and she said, "You might take the risk." I went down and met the father and sister, and when we got to the hospital he was still alive and conscious. He knew his father and sister and the young lady. He could not talk much, but he recognized them, and he mumbled out "Father." He asked me to get him a drop of beer the day before, and he asked me if I had brought it, and I said No, that the place was shut. My sister was there about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, and she lifted up the bedclothes and felt his feet and found them cold. She said to the nurse, "Do you know that my brother's feet are cold?" and she said, "No." She said, "They could not have been cold long." She apparently did not know they were cold at all. My sister asked for a hot-water bottle and blankets, and a few minutes afterwards his feet were quite warm again.

73. When did he die?—About ten past 1 o'clock, I think. My sister and the young lady were with him all the time till he died. He died on the Friday. I left about half past 10, as I did not like to see him struggling—he was so bad.

74. Do you wish to say anything about the correspondence with your brother—about the delivery of letters?—Yes. I wrote him a letter on the 22nd June, and my wife posted it on the 23rd in the Sydenham Post-office. That should have reached Trentham in the ordinary course on the 24th. Well, it was returned to us unopened.

75. On the 24th he had gone to Berhampore?—Yes; it is redirected to Kaiwarra and then to Berhampore. Now, he never received that letter. There were three or four letters posted at about the same time, but they were not returned. I asked him if he received my letters, and he said No. We found only four letters in his hand-bag after he died. That is practically eight days that this letter was in Trentham before he died; and in the letter that my wife put in with mine she asked him if there was anything more than a cold to let us know, as we were so anxious about him, but we never got a reply.

76. *The Chairman.*] Is that the envelope you have there?—Yes. [Produced.] That is the envelope returning the letter.

77. *Mr. Salmond.*] From what you saw in the hospital do you consider your brother was being properly looked after and treated by the nurses and doctors well?—Well, I am not an expert in the matter of pneumonia, and perhaps my own opinion and that of experts would not be the same; but in my own opinion I really think he could have been better looked after.

78. You mean he was neglected?—I mean to say he was neglected so far as the doctor was concerned. A doctor visiting a man once a day is not enough in a serious case like that.

79. Do you know he was only visited once a day?—I know Dr. Harrison only visited him once a day, and he was Dr. Harrison's patient.

80. He told you that?—He told me that himself, and the nurse also told me.

81. Was your brother a healthy man when he came up to Wellington?—Yes, he was. He never had a day's sickness in his life. He worked for me for six years and never lost a day through ill health.

82. Was he a vigorous man?—Yes, and bigger than me.

83. How old was he?—Twenty-nine.

84. What was his calling?—A plasterer.