

Did you treat them as quite recovered?—Yes.

When you say you did not know of the existence of influenza in England, do you refer merely to the severe type?—No; I cannot remember that I heard concerning England at all.

It did not impress you?—I cannot remember it.

With regard to the isolation at the hospital, in your opinion was it satisfactory?—Special accommodation was provided for the cases in the isolation block. As far as I know, there was no means of infection other than through the nurses, and precautions were taken, I am informed, to keep the nurses in that block. I may say I have nothing to do with the hospital.

As far as you know, were there any cases from the ship treated in the general ward?—No.

Dr. Russell, Port Health Officer, Auckland, said, *inter alia*,—

The Minister wired to Dr. Hughes to the effect that I was to go on board the boat alone for my diagnosis. Then followed the telegrams referred to by Dr. Hughes in his evidence.

Was there a telegram sent to you by the Minister?—Not direct. Dr. Hughes handed me the telegram. . . . We were met in the gangway by Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Barnett. Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Hughes, and I went all round the patients and examined them. I formed my diagnosis that the case was one of simple influenza, and that there was no pneumonic influenza on board the ship.

Will you tell us fully the steps you took before you formed that opinion?—I got from Dr. Mackenzie a full list of the cases, and I went round and examined each case separately and carefully, and I noted particularly the condition of the lungs. I found two bad cases. One was a Mr. Thomas—the second steward, I think—whom I know pretty well. He recognized me. It was a case of pneumonia, but not from the history of the case pneumonic influenza.

Who communicated to you the history of the case?—Dr. Mackenzie. The patient is a man who is particularly energetic, and is always keeping the men under him up to their work. He persisted in getting up and going about his work until he eventually went down with pneumonia. I questioned other men on board about the cases of men reported to have fallen down with a sudden attack, and from the information I received there was no such case on board. Men did fall down, but not suddenly from an attack. They fell down from exhaustion through carrying on their work when suffering from the disease. I was informed of that by Dr. Mackenzie and several of the passengers. It was brought home to me all the more forcibly by the fact that the passengers made a collection for presentation to the stewards for the noble way in which they had carried on during the disease.

Then you had conversations with the passengers and others?—Yes; I obtained all the information I could. Both Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Barnett agreed that the complaint was simple influenza. I communicated that to Dr. Hughes, and that information was passed along to the Minister. I have had no occasion to alter my opinions since. So far as I am aware, no contact with the “Niagara” has developed anything more than simple influenza.

With further reference to the patients, he says,—

There were fifty-eight the first day left on board the ship with us. These were properly isolated in the second-class smoke-room, which was converted into a hospital. The second-class cabins were also so converted. These temporary hospitals were barricaded off, and no one was allowed to go in or out. I attended to those patients.

What was the result of your observations of them?—My notes of the temperatures went away with the ship. I thought they had a right to them. I gave them to the nurse who was going over with the “Niagara” to carry on with.

Did you keep a copy?—No, I did not. I was at that time working night and day.

During the first day or two I could not allow any of the patients out. I allowed none out before three days. By the fourth or fifth day I had about twenty out and about working on the ship. I retained a certain number in hospital to act as orderlies, as I had only three nurses.

He draws special attention to the ship “Cluny Castle.”

Then I want to draw attention to another cause of contagion. The ship “Cluny Castle” had about four cases of influenza. I was called to that vessel during the night. The “Cluny Castle” was about two ships’ lengths away from the “Niagara”—both tied up to the wharf. The “Cluny Castle” came in on the 14th, a clean ship.

Dr. Mackenzie, who was a passenger on the “Niagara,” with Dr. Barnett, also a passenger (who was not in Auckland when we sat there), took charge of the cases unofficially. This is his evidence:—

Will you give us as full an account as you can of the health conditions on the “Niagara” during her voyage?—We left Vancouver on the 21st September. There had then been no mention in the Press of any influenza either in the United States or in Canada. Two days after sailing I saw a passenger who was suffering from an ordinary type of influenza. She was a first-class passenger. There was nothing special about her case. She was ill for some four or five days, and then became convalescent. So far as I know, there were no other cases of sickness until ten days after sailing from Vancouver, when we had left Honolulu. Then illness began to appear among the stewards, and that increased from day to day until a considerable number were down. The trouble reached its climax about the day we arrived at Suva—that is, about fourteen days after we left Vancouver. It was then that the ship’s doctor became ill.