

Dr. Barnett and I took over the cases. I had seen some cases with the ship's doctor a few days before that. There were none of them that showed any particularly serious symptoms. They were all cases with a certain amount of fever such as one usually expects in influenza, also headache and sore throat.

Was there any sickness in Honolulu when you were passing through?—I heard of none there. How long did you stay there?—One night.

Did people go on board?—Yes, freely. By the time we reached Suva the trouble had increased, and, of course, there was no egress from the ship, and only officials of the Health Department came on board. On that day I first saw a really serious case. That would be on about the 5th.

Have you a record of those cases?—No; I kept no record. If any one kept a record it would be the ship's mate.

No record has ever been produced?—No. The next day there was another serious case. Up to that time there were practically no cases amongst the passengers. The disease was confined almost entirely to the stewards, though there were a few cases among the crew. Many of the stewards had been up and down again, doing work for a day or two and then succumbing again. They mixed freely with the passengers. Two or three days before we reached New Zealand a number of cases showed much higher temperatures than they had done previously, and we thought it would be wise to remove ten or twelve of them to the ship's hospital. But of those cases only three gave us any anxiety. The worst case was that of the boatswain's mate, a man of stout, heavy build. He had bronchial pneumonia at the time of his admission to the hospital.

Would it not be the duty of the Medical Officer to keep a record?—I did not keep a record. That man became progressively worse, and died on the midnight before we arrived in Auckland. The next most serious case was that of one of the firemen, a man who had been a member of the Australian Expeditionary Force and who had been gassed in France. He had severe bronchitis, which developed into pneumonic condition. That did not surprise us, because gas-poisoning creates a susceptibility to lung trouble.

Did you connect that with influenza?—We described it as severe bronchitis following influenza. The only other case that caused anxiety was one of the stewards who suffered from delirium. Other cases had high fever, but none of them appeared to be in any special danger. The total number of cases we had when we reached Auckland was 110 to 120.

Confined to the crew?—Not entirely. There were five or six cases amongst the first-class passengers, and four or five amongst the second-class passengers, but they were cases of ordinary mild influenza. That was the state of the ship when the Health Officer came on board at Auckland.

At what stage of the journey did you take charge with Dr. Barnett?—The day we were at Suva.

What took place when you arrived in Auckland?—The District Health Officer and his assistant and the Port Health Officer boarded the ship at the wharf.

Was the boat lying off?—No; she was attached to the wharf. Dr. Russell came round the whole ship with me. The passengers who were well were taken to their respective saloons. I had a full list of all those who were patients, and we went round the crew's quarters, the passengers' cabins, and the ship's hospital. I described the conditions to Dr. Russell, and showed him the cases and the charts of those who were seriously ill in the hospital. Then I went with him to the saloon where the other passengers were. Then my duty practically finished. At that time Dr. Barnett was arranging for transfer to the hospital.

Who authorized the admission of other people to the ship?—I could not say. I simply reported to the Health Officer.

You considered then that the onus was with him?—He asked me for my diagnosis and the details, and I gave them to him.

What was your diagnosis?—Influenza.

In all cases?—Yes; influenza with complications such as one might expect.

We should like you to give as nearly as possible the exact language you used in giving your diagnosis to the Health Officer?—As far as my memory goes, I said to Dr. Russell that these were cases of what I would look upon as ordinary influenza; that one or two of them had developed serious complications which in neither case was unexpected to us. One member of the crew had come on deck when in high fever, complaining of the heat, and he had developed pneumonic complications, and the other, owing to his predisposition to chest trouble from his war history, had developed complications; also that the amount of complication was no more than we should have looked for amongst any similar number of cases of ordinary influenza.

Then that ends your connection with the matter?—Yes.

There was no discussion on board, I suppose, with any of the passengers or others as to the condition of the ship?—None whatever.

None of the passengers said anything about the condition of the ship?—I had not personally any discussion with any of them.

The passengers were not in any way interrogated?—Not to my knowledge.

How was the illness communicated from one to another?—I believe it to be by close contact.

Do you refer to close contact in the men's quarters?—Yes, that impressed me very much. The quarters of the men were very crowded. Their condition was very miserable when we had so many sick men in the tropical heat.