

## Quarantine

---

A rigid quarantine examination of vessels arriving from parts & places where Yellow fever prevails, is urged upon the Municipal Authorities, but under the following circumstances & conditions,

1. On the inspection of a vessel by the Health Officer, he should at once remove to the Hospital all persons laboring under an infectious disease. Having done so, every article of clothing & bedding supposed to be the medium for transmitting or communicating the disease should also be taken on shore.

2 When the vessel has been cleansed thoroughly; ventilated, white washed, if so directed or otherwise purified according to the discretion of the Officer, it should be permitted to proceed to the City.

3. If there are no cases of sickness, it should be the duty of the health officer to ascertain by examination of the Manifest, the articles of cargo, and inspect the same, by ordering the hatches to be opened, and a free current of air should be introduced to the hold by Wind Sails or otherwise.

4 Whatever may have been damaged by water, has decayed; become putrescent or offensive in odour, should be taken out. If every thing else is found in good condition, the vessel as far as

of whatever name or nature, contemplated in this connection, have been removed, the vessel, after being properly cleansed, should not be unnecessarily detained, but on the contrary, expedited on its way.

6. The disposal of the sick with infectious diseases at the Quarantine Station, should be left to the discretion of the Health Officer.

7. Non-intercourse with persons and vessels, at the Quarantine Station except through Officers especially set apart for such service, should be rigidly enforced.

Halfway measures would be of no use, nor are the enactments of Sanitary Laws of any value if they are but partially observed.

8. Raw hides in a foetid condition, should not be permitted to come to the City. When thoroughly dried & without offensive smell, they are then unobjectionable.

9. Vessels having fruits, should be quickly & carefully examined. Whatever is decayed should be thrown overboard, and if no cases of sickness are detected on board, the vessel should have immediate pratique, otherwise a heavy loss might might be incurred by reason of a perishable cargo.

We believe encouragement should be given to the importation of ripe, wholesome fruits.

There is instinctive desire for fruits at times when popular prejudice often decides they are injurious. A plentiful supply placed within the means of those who rarely feel able to indulge in a luxury that should be within the reach of the poor as

purpose, they should examine from: the condition of the ground, & point out economical methods of keeping it dry and clear. They should also insist on free ventilation of apartments and forbid the over-crowding of small dwellings.

14. White washing yards & damp walls in allees, and as far as possible, giving to them the influence of sun light & currents of air. should be insisted upon.

15. Offal in Stables should not be allowed to accumulate between May 1<sup>st</sup> & the 1<sup>st</sup> October beyond a single week, without removal beyond the City limits.

16. Privies at the Work house, Parish and all other prisons; civil & Military and hospitals should be required to be emptied once a week, during the same months.

17. Dead domestic Animals, as horses, Mules, cattle, dogs, &c. Should under no consideration be buried in the City. They are in far larger numbers than at any former period, since the Settlement of New Orleans, and the danger arising from their decomposition, if near the residences of the inhabitants, must be exceedingly prejudicial to the public health.

18. A better system of drainage is required, even if attained at great expense. Not only should the hydrants be freely opened, but the flowage should be copious, that no offensive materials remain in the gutters to stagnate. Those, in connection with the inspection of Sinks, Yards, privies, Stables, hospitals, prisons &c. require responsible Officers, who could neither be persuaded to neglect a duty so important,

14. Water is a very necessary & valuable, for the full purpose of the inhabitants, but it is so dear that many who would be disposed to use it far more liberally, as a measure of health, cannot afford to have it.

The reservoir should be kept, constantly, full, at whatever cost, through the whole season. If one engine is not enough to accomplish an object so desirable, then erect another forthwith.

As an element of health, with the father of Waters flowing in a majestic current, the whole extent of the City, it would be an absurdity to let the Streets, the sewers and the people be on short allowance.

20. At best the milk that is sold in New Orleans is of a poor quality. The climate & the character of the food provided for cows at particular seasons, is not calculated to improve the nutritious properties of the milk. The adulteration & dilution with water is proverbial, and should be the subject of very strict police regulations, since the health of young children, particularly, are greatly influenced by it as an article of daily aliment. How much the health of adults may be influenced, favorably or unfavourably by the bad or good quality of the milk & cream habitually taken tea, coffee and chocolate, is a subject by no means unworthy the careful investigation of the Municipal government.

21. Smallpox and varioloid, though much to be dreaded, are within the complete control of every community. Vaccination is a protection, so that those who neglect to avail themselves of it

exist long where recourse is had to a positive protection... the poor are cared for at the public charge.

### Intramural burials.

22. We approach this subject with some degree of hesitancy, because it is surrounded by difficulties requiring a large amount of moral courage to modify. — The system of burials in New Orleans is reprehensible, beyond what we may be instrumental in accomplishing for the better.

Investigations into the sources of epidemics in the City of New Orleans seem to have passed over the consideration of intramural burials. The cemetaries and burial fields are not only numerous, but some of them are located in thickly settled neighborhoods, with the prospective contention of streets, those now quite distant from the centre of business, will be surrounded in a few years by a dense population. It is quite surprising that nothing has been effectually proposed to relieve the living from breathing an atmosphere largely charged with mephitic gases given off from the decomposing masses of the human bodies there deposited. It is quite impossible to seal a tomb or even hermetically, so that nothing offensive shall escape. The air is the medium of transportation, and if laden with destructive elements, and taken into the lungs, the effect is admitted to be particularly injurious.

And further, it is the settled opinion of those who best comprehend the magnitude of the evil of burials

80. On no consideration should burials hereafter be permitted, in graves, in the season of the year pointed out in this report. Hence the necessity of immediate action in securing an appropriate place, remote from the City.

81. We leave it to the good judgement of the appropriate Officers of the Board of health, or their agents and the Municipal authorities, to carry out and prescribe the details of the foregoing proposition.

They are the prominent points which we feel justified in presenting to the Medical Director, to whom we are officially directed to report, with a hope that they may not only meet his views, but also the approval of all who wish well to the City of New Orleans in its present & future progress.

82. While recommending and urging upon the Medical Director an active movement, before the season advances, so that filth and garbage, the accumulations of all Cities under the best form of Municipal regulations, may not gain the ascendancy, to the injury of business or the peril of the citizens, we reserve to ourselves the privilege of suggesting, from time to time, such measures, as may seem to us wise & necessary, to be communicated to you and those empowered to aid and assist in preserving the public health.

The Commission, therefore, may be considered in session till they report the conclusion of their further deliberations and investigations.

With great respect, we have the honor to be your  
Obedient Servants.

may be the centres of undetermined disease. They may contribute, it may hereafter be admitted, to giving condition to the atmosphere in this vicinity, for maintaining & propagating the seeds of maladies. And the question is a proper one, — may not their existence aggravate and prolong epidemics or even the yellow fever?

The undersigned, after a careful consideration of the subject in its various bearings, have arrived at the conclusion that burials in the City from the first of May to the first day of October, should be interdicted.

23. We therefore recommend that a very large tract of land should be procured, below and beyond the Barracks hospital, & laid out in lots of fifteen feet square, for public burial fields.

24. Each and every citizen, the owner of a tomb or ovens, so called, in any of the cemetaries of the City, obligating himself or herself, to prepare and ornament one of the said lots, either by the erection of a tomb, a suitable enclosure, Statuary or other appropriate improvement and who shall abandon the further use of their tombs and ovens in the cemetaries, shall be presented with a lot, free of all expense.

25. One field is recommended to be exclusively given to be consecrated by the Catholic Church, under the same regulations and conditions.

26. Ample ground should also be secured for the burial of those who are not owners of tombs, and for the interment of strangers, soldiers and others, free of all expense.

Daniel C. Holliday M.D.

To R. H. Alexander, M.D.

Medical Director.

Department of the Gulf:

President of the Board of Health.

New Orleans. March 18<sup>th</sup> 1864.