

QUARANTINE NEEDS

Improvements That Are Being Urged To The Local Station At Hawkins Point.

Health Commissioner Jones and Quarantine Officer Ruhrah have been making strong efforts to secure from the board of estimates an appropriation for the repair of the quarantine station and buildings at Hawkins Point.

The buildings and the facilities there, both officers urge, are wholly inadequate to meet the demands of any disease such as smallpox or yellow fever, against which a strict quarantine must be maintained. They have been stimulated to more earnest efforts by reports of smallpox in Southern cities with which Baltimore has commercial relations. Conditions in those cities have been anxiously watched and conferences have been held with authorities of the marine hospital service, in Washington, concerning the severity of the disease. There is no wish or desire to quarantine against any of the cities, as such a step would hurt Baltimore as well, but there will be a strong effort made to keep the disease or any other similar one from this city.

Dr. Ruhrah, in speaking of the needs of the quarantine, called attention to the fact that the national government has at Cape Charles City, Va., at the mouth of the Chesapeake bay, a quarantine station which could effectually block off Baltimore's commerce should the local quarantine station be judged inefficient. Dr. Ruhrah said recently: "There should be two boats for our station. There is but one now, the Hygeia, which is superannuated and without disinfecting apparatus. A larger boat, properly equipped, would greatly facilitate the work of the quarantine officers and prevent unnecessary delay of vessels at the station. All infected material is disinfected in the disinfecting plant on the quarantine grounds. The city has been compelled upon several occasions to rent an additional boat for quarantine, but, like the Hygeia, the rented boat is unsuited to the purpose. What is needed is a modern tugboat of good size, fitted with a steam chamber for disinfection, a sulphur furnace and a bichloride of mercury tank and pump.

"The hospital building is unfitted for occupancy as an infectious disease hospital. It is built on the plan of having the sick and suspects under the same roof and permits air communication, which is unwise. It is supplied with a steam-heating apparatus, but the apparatus is out of order, and would be expensive to operate. The latest style hospitals are on the pavilion plan, with small wards for each disease, heated in an inexpensive manner and capable of easy disinfection. There are no barracks for housing suspects whom it might be necessary to detain. The water supply at the station is totally inadequate. During dry spells there is danger of a water famine. An artesian well, with a pump and tank, would be a great improvement. It would also be a protection against fire, there being practically nothing now to extinguish a fire should it start in any of the buildings.

"Quarantinable diseases, as prescribed by the United States law," said Dr. Ruhrah, "comprise smallpox, yellow fever, plague, cholera, typhus fever, relapsing fever and leprosy. When an infected vessel is located the clothing and bedding on it are put through a steam sterilizer, and the vessel is disinfected with sulphur dioxide, which is made on the quarantine tugboat. Formaldehyde is rapidly taking the place of sulphur for disinfecting purposes where there are fine hangings and colored materials."

Ruckle—De Katow.

Miss Eugenie J. de Katow, daughter of the late Alphonse de Katow, was married last night to Mr. Howard O. Ruckle. The ceremony was performed at 7.30 o'clock at the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents, Chase and Eden streets, by the rector, Rev. Robert A. Tufft.

The bride wore organdie over white taffeta silk, with a tulle veil and carried Bride roses. She was attended by Miss Bessie Bloxham, maid of honor, who was dressed in white organdie over pink and carried pink roses. The ushers were Harry Strider, of Leetown, W. Va.; Chas. Morgan, Milton Derr and James Shew. Mr. Morgan, organist of the church, played the wedding march and selections.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruckle left for a trip north. They will live at 3930 Lowndes avenue, Northern Annex.