

THE YELLOW FEVER PLAGUE.: THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION. (GA.)

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THE YELLOW FEVER PLAGUE.

THROUGH the month of October the yellow fever epidemic gave little sign of abatement. It gradually spread east as far as Montgomery, Ala., west as far as Houston, Tex., and north as far as Memphis, Tenn. It also took on a somewhat malignant form in the island of Jamaica. In the United States both the number of cases and the rate of mortality have been exceptionally low. Up to November 5 New Orleans, the center of the plague, had had 223 deaths, while in 1867 they numbered 1,072 for the month of October alone. The appearance of frost early in November raised hopes that the disease would soon be checked and the quarantine regulations were in many places entirely or partially suspended. The injury done to trade and travel by the strict rules enforced has caused considerable discussion of the desirability of national quarantine regulations.

The Atlanta Constitution. (Ga.)

Of all the efforts which have been made to discount the value of life in the Southern States, the

most senseless has been the wild and indiscriminate quarantines which have been declared in various parts of the country.

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The Kansas City Journal. (Mo.)

Whether or not the sanitary condition of southern cities is responsible for the outbreak of yellow fever, it is a deplorable fact that the South has been debarred in large measure from participation in the prosperity which has overspread the rest of the country. Trade cannot flourish under the shadow of a deadly epidemic. The afflicted section should have the generous sympathy of more fortunate communities.

New York Tribune. (N. Y.)

That a well-organized and liberally equipped federal service would close most of the gaps through which the epidemics of the past have found an entrance to our ports will not be disputed.

New Orleans Picayune. (La.)

The greed and covetousness of human nature and the keen competitions of business at the different ports operate against the completeness and thoroughness of the measures taken for the general safety.

The Mail and Express. (New York, N. Y.)

The need of uniformity in quarantine regulations

is imperative. The old, conflicting state systems are grossly inadequate to prevent the advance of epidemic disease, and besides that they often actually expose whole neighborhoods to the danger of infection.

Florida Times-Union and Citizen. (Jacksonville.)

No man sitting at Washington, no matter how able an administrator, can protect the health of these states so well as they can protect it themselves, if they will only follow the example of Florida and put in the hands of the right men the power they need—the power without which the national quarantine board would itself be useless.

The Chattanooga Times. (Tenn.)

As to the power of the general government to protect the country from invasion by disease, that rests on the same broad ground that does the power to repel a foreign navy or army from ravaging the coasts and carrying fire and sword into the interior. It is mere childish political sentimentality that quarrels with these propositions. They are founded in both reason and law, and buttressed by common sense.