

SPECIAL BULLETIN
OF THE
SUPREME BOARD OF HEALTH.

TEXT

In Spanish, French and English

Contains documents and orders issued in connection
with the campaign
undertaken against Yellow Fever in the different towns
in which that disease is observed.

NUMBER 2.

MEXICO.
ESTABLECIMIENTO TIPOGRÁFICO DE J. PALENCIA.
SAN FELIPE NERI NUMERO 19.
1904.

INTRODUCTION.

The Supreme Board of Health of the Federal District of Mexico, has believed that it is its duty to make a weekly publication of the more important documents connected with the campaign that has been undertaken against Yellow Fever.

In undertaking this work, the Board desires to bring before the eyes of the Sanitary authorities of the world, a faithful and documentary record of the movements of this disease, showing all the cases that may arise and the localities in which they are observed; the circumstances and special causes to which their appearance is due, and in short, all the data that must be taken into account in order to form a correct opinion as to the development and progress of Yellow Fever in the Mexican Republic, and also as to the methods which are adopted to obtain the extinction of that terrible disease.

The Board is particularly anxious to form a collection of materials, from which in the course of time, data will be obtained for the history of Yellow Fever in our coun-

try, and that will at the same time serve to cooperate with the medical world and to show the teachings that may serve as a guide for future practice.

The Board flatters itself that the utility of this publication will be well appreciated, as it believes that by the good faith with which it has always acted in its internal and foreign relations, it will have conquered the right to claim for its statements, the credit which they justly deserve.

It also nourishes the hope, that its labors will diffuse and encourage the spirit of fraternity and good will between the officers who are in charge of public health, as is so highly indispensable for the prompt and efficient carrying out of sanitary measures, that only in this way can it be made to produce the desired results, and thus tend to the greater advancement and happiness of mankind.



DOCUMENTS

selected from the correspondence between the President of the Supreme Board of Health, Mexico, and the Medical Delegates, Governors, Political Chiefs, etc. in connection with the campaign undertaken against Yellow Fever.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Veracruz, 12th of January, 1904.

President of the Supreme Board of Health:

The patient referred to in my telegram of today has been sick for eight days. He is the servant of a captain in the army who lives in an apartment house where he was for two days, afterwards passing to the barracks where he remained for three days, and was admitted into the Hospital night before last.

I arranged for the general disinfection of the apartment house and of the barracks, having spoken to the Commanding Officer and requested him to comply with the instructions to pass every man suffering from fever and suspected of having Yellow Fever at once to the Hospital. He immediately gave the necessary orders.—*N. del Rio*, Delegate.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 14th of January, 1904.

Second Medical Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health.—Veracruz.

I answer your telegrams of yesterday and day before.

Please report who is the Sanitary Agent in charge of the inspection of the house where the soldier of the 17th Battalion sick with Yellow Fever was lodged, and who may have remained there two days without being discovered, in order to enforce the liability that he may be under for this fact. Also give the name of the captain who allowed that soldier to remain in the barracks for three days when he was already sick.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 26th of January, 1904.

Delegate of Supreme Board of Health.—Salina Cruz.

Your message of yesterday duly noted.

Please report further details with respect to the origin of the last two cases of Yellow Fever that have occurred in Tehuantepec and the measures that have been adopted to prevent the spread of the disease.—The Interim President of the Supreme Board of Health.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 13th of February, 1904.

Political Chief of the Canton of Veracruz.—Veracruz.

From your message of yesterday, this Board notes that there was nothing new with regard to Yellow Fever in your port for the last twenty-four hours, and that the only patient existing who suffers from this disease is in the Loreto Hospital.

On behalf of the President of the Board, I beg that you will request the physician in charge of the special service in the Third District, to make a minute investigation of the origin of the case of the girl who is in the Loreto Hospital, seeing that in the dwelling in which this case appeared, no new case has been discovered during the last year and a half, and also that he should disinfect that house as well as the adjoining houses in the most perfect manner, even if possible, more so than is customary, considering that the patient referred to passed five days there, during which it is very probable that she may have been bitten by mosquitoes of the genus «*Stegomya fasciata*,» which will have become infected and bring about the spread of the disease.—*J. Huici*, General Secretary.

Government of the Free and Sovereign State of Oaxaca.

The Political Chief of Tehuantepec reports to this Government by wire on the 16th inst., as follows:

«I have the honor to communicate that a death took place yesterday from Yellow Fever. The necessary measures are being adopted to prevent the spread of this disease.»

I have the honor to transcribe the same to you for your information and, protest my respect.

Liberty and Constitution. Oaxaca de Juarez, 22nd of February, 1904.—*Emilio Pimentel*.

To the President of the Supreme Board of Health.—México.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 26th of February, 1904.

Political Chief of the District of Tehuantepec.—Tehuantepec, Oaxaca.

The Governor of the State of Oaxaca tells me that you have reported a death from Yellow Fever in that place on the 15th inst.

I beg you will inform me if no other case has presented itself; if there is a Lazaret in your city, a room or ward with doors and windows protected with wire cloth so as to isolate patients suffering from that disease; if the service is arranged so as to admit patients at any moment and all other information on the point that you may consider of interest to me.

I beg you will report any fresh case that may arise, and also if you have the necessary resources for disinfecting the houses in which there have been Yellow Fever patients.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Supreme Board of Health.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 29th of February, 1904.

Political Chief of the District of Tehuantepec.

Much obliged for the reports you have given me in your message of yesterday relative to the cases of Yellow Fever in your city and the condition of the Lazaret.

Seeing that the above building is not as yet available, please tell me what will be the expense of preparing a ward in the existing Hospital for those patients, that is to say, providing its doors and windows with fine wire cloth for the purpose of preventing the entry of mosquitoes.

By today's mail I forward you copies of the pamphlets, «Instructions to ward off intermitent and malarial fevers» and «New plan of campaign against Yellow Fever,» in which full details are given as to the measures that should be adopted to avoid the spread of Yellow Fever in places that are invaded.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Supreme Board of Health.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 29th of February, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health.—Tampico.

From your message of day before yesterday. I have learned with great satisfaction, that the labors of the special service against Yellow Fever in your port have been commenced.

I congratulate myself on your having accepted the charge of this service, because as you are going to direct the operations I am certain that not a single infected mosquito will be left alive, and in this way we will guarantee the safety of the rest of the State of Tamaulipas as well as those of Nuevo Leon and San Luis Potosi, against any return of Yellow Fever.

Do not forget to have the grass in which the mosquitoes lodge, properly burnt.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 8th of March, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health, Tampico.

I am obliged to you for your explanation in today's telegram, respecting the number of persons listed. As a matter of fact, the object of the list is to know the number of non immunes who are in the town; and of the domiciliary visit, to investigate whether any of them suffer from fever from any cause whatever, so as to isolate them at once as suspects.

As in the event of any sick person being discovered under suspicion he must be isolated, ascertain if the Lazaret is in a proper condition to receive the patients as soon as they are discovered; whether any place exists where persons of means can be lodged, whenever necessary to subject them to this precaution, on the understanding that the strict rule which we are about to enforce is, that any individual who may present feverish symptoms, must be

isolated, whatever may be the sex, age, social position or nationality of such person. This is the only efficient way to prevent the disease from spreading.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 8th of March, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health.—Veracruz.

Your message of today informs me of the origin of the fresh case of Yellow Fever which is being attended in the Loreto Hospital.

Please investigate who was the Agent that for six days visited the house in which the patient lived and did not discover that she had fever. You and your associates will take care that the domiciliary visit satisfies its object, which is that of discovering the sick persons on the first day of the disease. Have the thermometer applied on the first suspicion of sickness, as if we do not proceed in this way we run the risk of allowing the epidemic to reappear.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

Section 1st Number 1239.—This Board is informed by your communication of the 22nd ultimo, of the message addressed to the Government under your worthy charge by the Political Chief of Tehuantepec, in which he reports a death from Yellow Fever in the Capital of that district.

In giving you our thanks for your attention in reporting this case, I beg, that if you have no objection, you will authorize me to deal directly with the political authority

of Tehuantepec in all matters relating to Yellow Fever, on the understanding that I have already telegraphed to that officer, asking information about the case that he has reported.

Please accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, 9th of March, 1904.
—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

To the Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Oaxaca.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 10th of March, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health.—Veracruz.

I answer your message of yesterday.

I am very glad to hear of your decision to furnish thermometers to the Agents of the Special Service, in order that they may take the temperature of non-immunes whom they may visit; and thus prevent the repetition of the discovery of a person suffering from Yellow Fever on the sixth day of the disease.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 16th of March, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health, Tampico, Tamaulipas.

I note your message of yesterday relative to the work executed on that date by the Special Service. I have al-

ready remitted the necessary funds for the salaries and expenses of the same during the present month.

Give me the names of the employés of the additional staff whom you proposed some days ago, in order to issue their respective appointments. Commence burning the huts at «Paso de Doña Cecilia» with the necessary precautions, and ascertaining that there is no store of explosives in the neighborhood; warning the proprietor of each of these huts, that if he builds another in the place of the one burned it will be again destroyed without payment of compensation; but that if he constructs a new house of timber I will ask the Central Railroad Company to grant him the ownership of the ground.—*Eduardo Liceaga*, President of the Board.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Mexico, 20th of March, 1904.

Delegate of the Supreme Board of Health.—Veracruz.

From the Sanitary Bulletin of your port for yesterday, communicated to me by the Political Chief of the Canton, I note that the case of Yellow Fever in a brakeman of the Veracruz & Pacific Railroad who arrived from Tierra Blanca, has been confirmed.

For this reason I recommend you at once to establish a disinfection service of a very strict character on all the trains that enter the port, and especially now, on those that arrive by the road above mentioned. This service will have to be permanent on all the passenger coaches and box cars until the mosquitoes disappear that might have been infected therein. Distribute this work between the