

information they have felt it necessary to make some inquiries regarding the dépôt at Plymouth, the condition of the ship when joined by the emigrants, and other matters which might throw light on the origin of the outbreak of typhoid fever.

*The Dépôt.*—While complaints of the dirty state of the establishment, and the want of such ordinary comforts as the severity of the weather would render essential, are almost universal, it would appear that good health prevailed amongst its inmates previous to the first voyage, and that the cause of the disease must be sought elsewhere. The establishment, however, was faulty in various respects, the sleeping accommodation, as described by the married witnesses, being absurdly small, and the filthy condition of the bedding almost incredible. Vermin appears to have abounded. A proper supply of bed-clothing for the existing cold weather was not forthcoming, and a considerable amount of unnecessary harshness seems to have been displayed in the management, more particularly with regard to the women and children. A considerable amendment is stated to have occurred during the visit of the Agent-General, for whose inspection special preparations are said to have been made. The Commissioners would, however, point out the evidence of H— J— and others as showing the filthy state of the establishment and the bedding.

*The Ship.*—Suggestions have been made that hides and other offensive matters had been carried as cargo on a previous voyage, but evidence and examination of log-books clearly prove that corn and seeds only had been taken on the last two occasions. The vessel herself is roomy and airy between decks, and certainly gives the impression that she is well suited for the conveyance of emigrants. It is right, however, to state that the fittings had been removed before our inspection, in accordance with the usual practice on going into quarantine.

*First Voyage.*—The quality of the water carried on this occasion calls for no remarks from us, as the certificate furnished by the Board of Trade sufficiently condemns it as unfit for use (*vide* Parliamentary Paper attached, D.-4, 1883, p. 6). It would be interesting to learn whether other ships using the same supply have also suffered. Complaints were made as to the wet and dirty condition of the main or passenger deck. On joining the ship for the first voyage the assistant cook fell sick shortly after leaving London, and remained so until landed at Cardiff. His symptoms, as described to us by witnesses, are not incompatible with those of a mild attack of typhoid. The outbreak of fever on the first voyage has already formed the subject of a report by the Agent-General and need not be gone into here.

*The Repairs, &c., of the Ship at Cardiff.*—The water-tanks are stated to have been emptied by means of a force-pump into the dock, and then whitewashed. The Commissioners find that, after using the pumps as far as possible, a quantity of water remained in each tank, and that this was removed with buckets and swabs; a good deal was slopped about, and no doubt found its way into the bilges and fouled them. The ship was fumigated more than once, but that the hold was not affected or purified is shown by the survival of numerous rats, which made their appearance shortly after. The cargo hatches were not removed during the fumigation. The Commissioners are informed that the bedding which had been used by the emigrants was given to the poor at Cardiff after fumigation. The condenser appears to have been removed at Cardiff for repairs, and advantage was taken of the opportunity for cementing the leaky brick flooring of the engine-house. It is to be regretted that some more efficient means was not adopted for making it watertight, cement being sure to crack with the straining of the vessel: a lead-lining would have been effective; whereas great inconvenience was suffered on the subsequent voyage through the want of a proper floor, and considerable leakage occurred, as seen by the evidence of the immigrant M—. The tanks were inspected, before they were re-filled, by an officer of the Board of Trade. The stores and provisions for the use of the immigrants were good, as shown by the evidence and by the examination by us of the residue left on arrival in port. Complaints regarding the bread point to an inefficient baker. There was, however, a deficiency of small stores (which do not appear to have been replenished at Cardiff or Plymouth) and a great want of candles. Some of these goods were, moreover, improperly stowed, and inaccessible until the removal of some tanks at the termination of the voyage.

The first case of typhoid fever on the second voyage occurred on the 18th of May, and eight altogether were attacked before reaching Wellington, of whom two died. The disease was almost entirely confined to the single men and single women. The only other case, in the married people's compartment, was that of a child who fell ill almost at the conclusion of the voyage. The condenser was only worked fifty-nine days. It consumed so much coal that, had the voyage been protracted, a sufficient quantity would not have remained for cooking purposes. Leakings of the decks occurred in several places, as pointed out by the Surgeon in his report and evidence.

We find that, before joining the ship on the second voyage, the whole of the immigrants were very carefully examined by a medical officer of the Board of Trade and by the Surgeon-Superintendent. All appeared to be free from infectious disorder, but the bad physical condition of some of them is remarked upon by Dr. Wassé in his report. One young woman brings a certificate from an English medical practitioner to the effect that she is in the second stage of phthisis, and that a voyage to and a residence in New Zealand may possibly do her much good. Proper hygienic measures appear to have been carefully followed by the Surgeon-Superintendent during the voyage, and his treatment of the patients appears to have been careful and judicious. Every available precaution was adopted by him to check the spread of the outbreak, which resulted in two fatalities from a total of eight persons attacked during the voyage. Fortunately this was a short one; had it been protracted the result must have been disastrous, judging by the number of those who developed the disease shortly after landing.

As regards the management of the ship, nothing has been elicited which reflects the slightest blame upon the officers and crew; on the contrary the captain appears to have been kind and attentive to the immigrants.

*Remarks and Recommendations.*—We consider that it would be wiser in future to avoid sending immigrants by a ship in which an epidemic has recently occurred, and from which the cargo has not been removed so as to enable a thorough fumigation, cleaning, painting, and disinfection