

Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

MEDICAL DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

November 7, 1910.

The Surgeon-General,
Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Bureau letter dated October 26, 1910, -(M.J.M.;L.E.C.)-relative to the length of time an additional medical officer would be required at this station, and suggesting the aid of the Service Plague Laboratory at San Francisco in diagnostic work.

This station resembles Ellis Island in that the detention sheds and offices are on an island in the bay, and the boarding station is located in the city proper on the water-front. A medical officer on boarding duty can be of little or no assistance in the work done at the island station.

The bulk of the immigration here is Chinese, and a large number from each ship are held on the station pending disposition of their cases; so that the detention-quarters are always comfortably full to overcrowded. This population provides constantly, a number of patients for the hospital, in addition to those placed in the hospital for purposes of diagnosis. Certain cases of trachoma, hookworm, etc., are, from time to time, allowed to remain for treatment until cured. There are four such cases now in

the hospital and several applications pending.

Realizing that the hospital is an important feature of this station, the immigration officials now here to investigate and straighten out the station, are inclined to insist on a resident medical officer, and to recommend the remodeling of the hospital.

All the clerical work connected with the medical inspection of aliens is done at the Island station. Of this, there is a great deal incident to Chinese aliens that is not common to other stations. The hospital bills and ledgers, also, make great demands on the time of the medical officer.

The medical officer on the Island, is required to make daily rounds among the detained aliens to determine if any be ill.

With the inspecting of aliens, steerage, on arrival at the Island, and the routine hospital work, the above constitutes the duties of the medical officer on the Island.

Until the finding of intestinal parasites among the aliens, these duties could be accomplished by one officer, but since then the work has so increased, clerical as well as laboratory, that it has been found to be impossible for one man to do it. A recent order of the Acting Commissioner is to the effect that all Chinese who are to be landed shall be examined, prior to leaving the Island, for hookworm, excepting those who are entitled to land regardless of their physical or mental condition.

For the present, therefore, I cannot put any period to the necessity of an additional officer at this station.

So far as the plague laboratory is concerned, its use as a diagnostic aid is hardly feasible. It is located so far from the water-front and the boat schedule between Angel Island and San Francisco is such as to

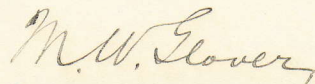
3.

deprive the hospital of one man's labor to carry specimens; nor do I think the plague laboratory would be willing or able to give the time to this work at the time it would be desired at this end. I have taken advantage of Dr. McCoy's courtesy in the past, many times in questions of sanitation and diagnosis, but when it comes to a routine work of examining a couple of hundred stools each week, it would, I believe, be too much.

It is not, however, necessary that all the officers here be commissioned ones. The two on the Island, perhaps, ought to be, but the boarding work can be well done, as at times in the past, by an acting assistant surgeon.

If it is the intention of the Bureau that Dr. Turnipseed's detail here be only a temporary one, I would suggest that an acting assistant surgeon be substituted now, so that the work can be divided on a permanent basis.

Respectfully,



Passed Assistant Surgeon,

U.S.P.H. & M.-H.S.

10

AND

No. 1609045608
Recd NOV 12 1910

msd

Department of Commerce and Labor

IMMIGRATION SERVICE
MEDICAL DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

November 7, 1910

Glover, M. W.,
P. A. Surgeon, P. H. & M. H. S.

SUBJECT:

Discussing the need of an additional medical officer, and use of Service Plague Laboratory in substitution thereof.

No. of Inclosures

File
See