

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

MONOGRAPH SERIES

No. 22

PLAGUE

PLAGUE

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World Health Organization



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

PALAIS DES NATIONS

GENEVA

1954

Public Health Library
Singapore

A French edition of this monograph is in preparation.

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PRINTED IN SWITZERLAND



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CORRIGENDA

Chapter 2, page 101, table XI

Line 24 (Manchuria . . .), columns 3 and 4

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Line 36 (Total . . .), columns 3 and 4

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Preface

In reviewing the history of plague research from the discovery of *Pasteurella pestis*, in 1894, to the present day, one cannot fail to perceive that, although work in this field of applied science was carried on assiduously the whole time, the greatest progress was made at the beginning and at the end of this sixty-year period. During the twenty years immediately following the isolation of the causative organism, the work of such pioneers as Yersin, Simond, Albrecht, and Ghon, together with the comprehensive studies of the Plague Research Commission in India, laid a secure foundation for future investigations; and it was also in this period that plague vaccination was introduced by Haffkine and, thus, the first milestone on the road to effective plague-control was reached. But it is only within the last decade that treatment with sulfonamides and antibiotics, on the one hand, and the application of potent insecticides—particularly DDT—on the other, have rendered plague both a normally curable and a thoroughly controllable disease.

The last publication in the English language to deal comprehensively with the plague problem was a manual compiled in 1936 by Wu Lien-teh, J. W. H. Chun, R. Pollitzer, and C. Y. Wu. Appearing as it did before the spectacular advances in the treatment and control of the disease had begun, this work, while still appreciated as a reference-book, has become rather outmoded. For this reason, and because he was the only one of the four authors who had remained active in plague research, the present writer was repeatedly urged to bring out a second edition. However, quite apart from the fact that the writer's work on plague and cholera control occupied the major part of his time both during and immediately after the second World War, several considerations militated against a re-edition of the 1936 manual. In the first place, the book was written primarily for workers in China, and contains some sections of little interest for the general reader. Secondly, as already indicated, the parts concerned with treatment and with the control of rats and fleas have become so obsolete as to be of historical rather than practical importance.

Hence, it became clear that it would be far better to publish an entirely new monograph, dealing with the plague problem as it exists today, than to attempt a revision of the 1936 manual.

It was therefore decided that, initially, a number of studies, dealing successively with all aspects of plague, should be published in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, and that, eventually, these individual studies should be grouped and reprinted in book form. The first study was published in November 1951, the last in September 1953. Before publication in the present monograph, the studies were carefully revised and brought up to date. It is hoped that the final result will be of real assistance to workers engaged in plague research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer's responsible task of compiling this monograph has been greatly alleviated through the advice and help generously given by many colleagues and friends. Invidious as it is to single out some of those who have thus earned his gratitude, the writer wishes to mention specifically : Mr. D. H. S. Davis of the Plague Research Laboratory, Union Department of Health, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, who provided much useful information on plague-infected rodents and fleas in Africa; Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins of the British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, England, whose assistance was of great value in connexion with the chapters on rodents and fleas; Dr. V. B. Link and Dr. C. O. Mohr of the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga., USA, who supplied additional data on plague in the United States of America; Dr. A. Macchiavello, formerly Expert Consultant on Plague at the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Washington, D.C., USA, who kindly made available unpublished lists of reservoirs and vectors of plague and furnished much valuable information on plague in South America; Dr. K. F. Meyer, Director of the George Williams Hooper Foundation, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, USA, who was indefatigable in giving his generous assistance in many ways; Mr. F. G. A. M. Smit, Custodian of the Rothschild Collection of Siphonaptera at the Zoological Museum, Tring, who contributed an important annex—enriched by excellent drawings he had prepared himself—on the identification of fleas; and Dr. S. S. Sokhey, formerly Director of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, and Dr. P. M. Wagle, the present Director of the Institute, who supplied most useful information on plague and its control in India.

In addition to making the foregoing personal acknowledgements, the writer would like to express his indebtedness to all who kindly contributed material for the illustrations to this monograph. Some of these were provided through the courtesy of certain institutions, namely :

The George Williams Hooper Foundation, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, Calif., USA (fig. 5-9, 15-23, and 32);

The Institut Pasteur, Paris, France (fig. 11 and 12) and the Institut Pasteur, Madagascar (fig. 33 and 34);

The Wellcome Museum for Medical Science, London, England, Dr. G. Robertson, Capetown, Union of South Africa, and Colonel P. V. Karanchandani, Madras, India (fig. 28-31);

The Haffkine Institute, Bombay, India (fig. 24-26); and

Ciba Aktiengesellschaft, Basle, Switzerland (fig. 1, 2 and 10).

Others have been reproduced, by kind permission of the editors, from the following publications :

Indian Journal of Medical Research, 1939/40, **27**, 325, 326—fig. 13 and 14 (by permission of the Indian Council of Medical Research);

Rat-borne disease : prevention and control, 1949, pp. 55, 60, 61, 266 (United States Public Health Service, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga.)—fig. 27, 36, 37, and 39;

Control of rats and mice, 1948, pp. 20, 25 (University of California, College of Agriculture, Agricultural Extension Service Circular 142)—fig. 35 and 38.

Finally, the author wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. G. Girard, Chef du Service de la Peste, Institut Pasteur, Paris, who, besides rendering valuable help in other ways, has undertaken the onerous task of translating the studies into French. Thanks to his work, the readership of the monograph will be greatly increased.

