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## HONDURAS.

*Vessels from San Francisco, Cal., not required to be fumigated at Amapala.*

The following is received from the Department of State, under date of January 8:

A note from the minister of foreign affairs of Honduras states that orders have been issued to the authorities of the only port of Honduras on the Pacific, Amapala, temporarily to waive fumigation on vessels coming from San Francisco, Cal.

## INDIA.

*Report from Calcutta—Proposed preventive measures against plague.*

The following is received from Consul-General Michael, under date of December 5:

Plague deaths in India during the last 11 years number nearly 5,500,000, or little less than 500,000 annually. The ruin, beggary, and desolation wrought by this disease in parts of India can not be comprehended fully except by those who have been face to face with it.

A report made by a commission appointed by the Government, in cooperation with the Royal Society and the Lister Institute, furnishes some very interesting and valuable information.

It is considered that the experience now acquired warrants the belief that the systematic destruction of rats promises to be one of the most effective measures that can be adopted for preventing the spread of plague.

Among preventive measures, disinfection, with really germicidal fluids, of both houses and clothing takes a high place in regard to towns where the disease has not fully established itself.

The most efficacious of the various methods hitherto adopted with the object of arresting plague has been the prompt abandonment of the affected locality for a period which varies with local conditions. The evacuation, however, must be thorough, as, if a portion of the inhabitants remain, the disease will continue to spread. Where the exodus is feasible the people should be encouraged to resort to it and assisted by the grant of blankets and warm clothing when necessary and by the provision of huts and the materials for building them.

Inspection of travelers by railway, road, and steamship is advised, and segregation camps for the detention of the sick should be adopted outside villages, though these measures admit of difficulty if applied to towns. The removal of the sick to hospitals is eminently desirable, though it has always been unpopular.

Inoculation with prophylactic fluid is of value, both for the protection which it affords against an attack and its effect in mitigating the violence of the disease.

The application of the measures enumerated above must depend upon the circumstances and the locality, the character of the people, the stage which the disease has reached, and the agency available for dealing with it. What is necessary in a district free from plague may be useless or vexatious where the disease has become indigenous; what is effectual in one part of the country may be inoperative in