### John Abner Mead's possessions still owned by the Mead Family

John Abner Mead's Civil War Company K rifle with original full bayonet:



Dr. Mead's Kings County Hospital Alumni Association medal:





John Abner Mead's Grand Army of the Republic memorabilia:



John Abner Mead's Political memorabilia:





The Mead Family Bible which was held by President Thomas at the Mead Memorial Chapel 1914 Groundbreaking Ceremony:



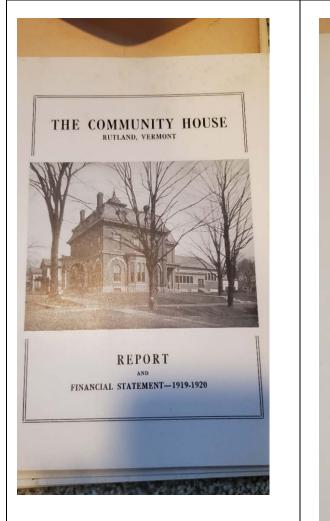
Photograph of John Abner Mead on his Rutland Farm:



A photograph which was sent by Middlebury College to the Mead family heirs showing the Mead Memorial Chapel sign after its removal:



#### Photos of The Community House 1919-1920 Financial Report



HISTORY OF COMMUNITY HOUSE The Community House was presented by Ex-Governor John Abner Mead to the Congregational Society in 1915 with the provision that it should be used as "a general center for wholesome recreation and social opportunity." The plant consists of a large and commodious building used as a private residence prior to its use as a Community House, and a modern gymnasium which was added in 1916. During the first year, 1917-18, the activities were conducted under the direction of the pastor of the church. The following year, 1918-19, a paid Director, Mr. Harold I. O'Brien, was in charge. In 1919 a Board of Governors representative of the community at large was chosen to conduct the work on a broad community basis. This Board raised funds by personal solicitation, secured a full-time Director, Milton B. Hunt, under whose supervision the first year shows gratifying results. We believe that under the present plan of operation the donor's wishes regarding The Community House are being realized.

The Community House is a Rutland institution to be used by all its citizens, in their search for wholesome recreation and social opportunity. Every resident of the city is free to share in its use and should share in its maintenance.

Archive photograph of Middlebury College students, Vermont Volunteers Company K:.

(John Abner Mead is back row on left in front of flag):



12<sup>th</sup> Regiment Vermont Volunteers Flag:



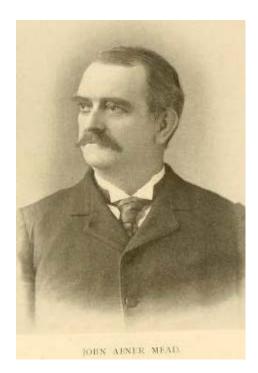
https://vermontcivilwar.org/units/12/



John Abner Mead's Middlebury College Class Photo:



John Abner Mead, Cir. 1890s:



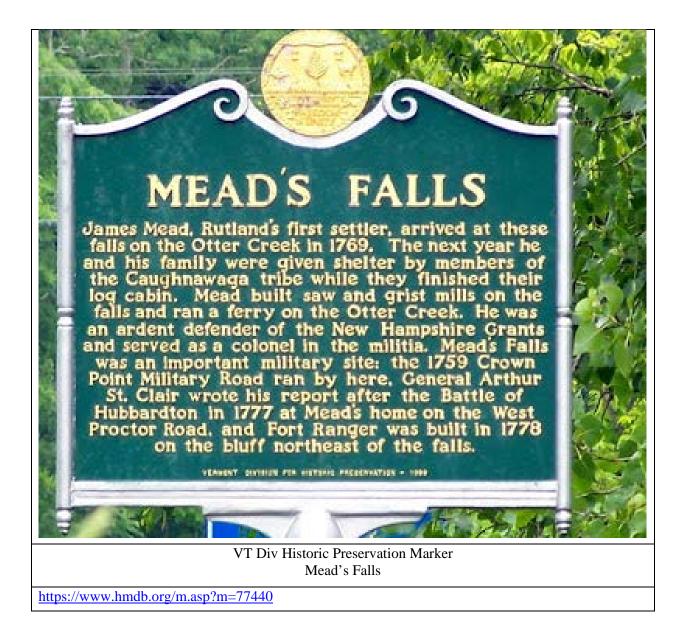
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13148176/john-abner-mead

Photograph of Vermont's Company K Civil War Veterans gathered at the Bennington Encampment in 1891, for their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion at the dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument Memorial:



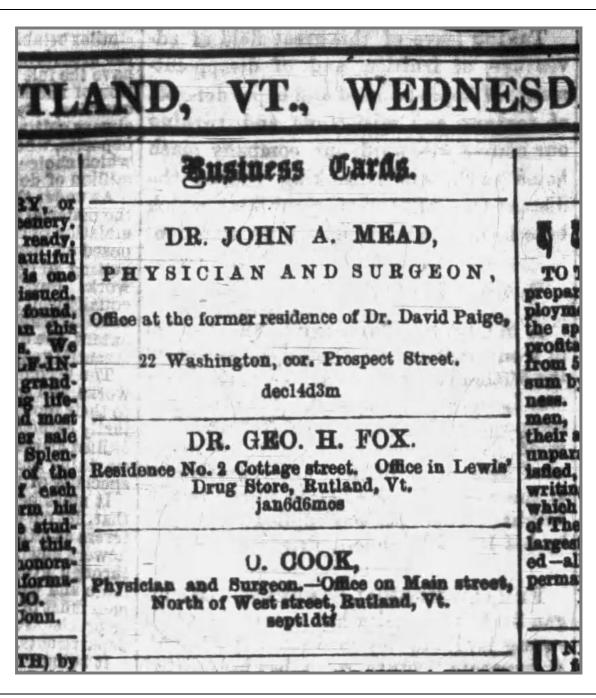
https://www.abebooks.com/Grand-Army-Republic-30th-GAR-Encampment/14606207028/bd







https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Mead-953-5



**Newspapers**<sup>™</sup>



VERMONT OPINION	con in
GOV. MEAD'S GIFT TO RUTLAND. Barre Times.	imi
Barre Times. As for the gift itself, it offers a pplendid chance for the young people of Rutland; and the people of that city should feel a debt of gratitude to Gov.	pos
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Rutland Herald.	gr
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at Rutland News.	be
Ratland News. Ratland received a worth-while Christmas gift in the splendid present, announced yesterday at the Con- gregational church, from John Abner Mead, former governor of the State, of the L. H. McIntire property on the southeast corner of Center and Court streets, to be used by the youth of Rat- land as a social center. While the gift is cladear drimality in the hands of	ef
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### MENU

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# John Abner Mead

First Name: John

Middle Name: Abner

Last Name: Mead

Graduation Year: 1868

Degree granting institution: College of Physicians and Surgeons

Death Year: 1920

### Memo

Died at his home in Rutland, Vermont, at age 78. Middlebury Coll. Vt., 1864, A.B.; 1867, A.M.

### Citation

Columbia Alumni News 11 (February 20, 1920) P 326; Catalogue of the Alumni, Officers and Fellows, 1807-1891, P 96; NYT (January 13, 1920)

### Academic year of citation: 1919-1920

### Research

New York Times January 13, 1920 Rutland Vermont January 12 - John A. Mead, Governor of Vermont from 1910 to 1912 and rst Mayor of this city, died at his home, aged 78 years. He was a graduate of the College of Physicians and

John Abner Mead | Archives & Special Collections **EXNIDIT 8 - 016** Surgeons in New York in 1868. He was president of the Howe Scale Company and interested in many other concerns.

### **Record ID:** 9017

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# Farewell address

of

John A. Mead

As it appears in the

Journal

of the

Joint Assembly

### Exhibit 8 - 018 Thursday, October 3, 1912 Farewell Address

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

It has been the custom of my predecessors for many years at the close of each administration to present an account of the conduct of the executive department for the two preceding years to the Joint Assembly, also to suggest such changes in the laws of our commonwealth and such new legislation as would be deemed advisable. This duty is attended with many regrets that I could not have had that experience and wisdom which would have enabled me during my term of service to accomplish more for the happiness and uplift of our people, and also with pleasure when I realize that a higher standard has been attained in our educational and agricultural life, and a marked improvement in our highways.

In this my retiring message I wish to state that I have carefully considered the various subjects which I have treated, with those officials most conversant with the same, and have drawn largely from them for expert knowledge, oftentimes the result of long experience, and have quoted freely from suggestions made by said officials.

In my message of two years ago, I urged the General Assembly to carefully consider a few subjects of vital importance and not attempt to correct all the errors of the past legislatures or to enact all the wise legislation which the present and the future may require, and thus with a defined policy presented, I feel that most satisfactory results as to educational and agricultural life and the betterment of our roads has been attained and it is with pleasure that I shall refer briefly to what has been accomplished in these vital departments of our state life, hoping that you will continue the progressive work so well begun.

#### EDUCATION.

Not only has Vermont been blessed during the past two years with great material improvements such as permanent highways and public buildings; not only has the state made worthy advance socially and civically as is indicated by the deep interest of the people in the state's welfare and their sincere desire to work unitedly for the state's advancement; but probably in no respect has the state made greater progress than along educational lines.

This has been due chiefly to the strong and progressive measures passed by the General Assembly of 1910. Among these certain ones might be considered of a minor character, as they were simply modifications of existing laws and provided for an expansion of the free advanced instruction law; the raising of the school age to sixteen years, the strengthening of the child labor law, and the making of the school attendance laws more operative.

Also, in the minor enactments may be included the permissory acts allowing towns to pension teachers, providing for medical inspection of school children, and authorizing the state board of education to purchase the normal school property at Castleton and to lease the normal school building at Johnson.

In addition to the foregoing are four measures that most signally marked a new era educationally and stand as unassailable evidence to the progressive statesmanship of your last assembly.

1. The first was an appropriation to the Austine Institution of Brattleboro for the purpose of erecting a building for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind. Heretofore they have been educated outside the state, but hereafter they may be educated by the state at cost in the Austine Institution.

2. The second important measure was the change in the date of the school year from April 1 to July 1. This change was so reasonable that it provoked no discussion, and it is now a surprise that the state should have continued so long with its misfits, disjointed and overlapping census reports, official, fiscal and scholastic years. This is apparent when I state that the census year of Vermont was February 1, the school directors' report year

was February 15, the official year began March meeting day, the fiscal year began April 1, the superintendents' year began July 1 and the scholastic year began September 1. All school business is now centered upon a single date and can be transacted without the delays and confusion previously prevailing.

3. The third important school measure passed by the General Assembly of 1910, and one that introduced a new and necessary feature into our educational system, was the creation of a state school of agriculture at Randolph Center. When we reflect upon the importance of agriculture and the extent to which the people of the state are engaged in it, then the importance of this new institution is appreciated. The educational system of the state, especially in its secondary courses, had not in any noticeable degree aided the state in the development of its resources, in revealing the opportunities within its limits, or in conserving its population and possibilities. Therefore the state school of agriculture was established. That it will perform its purpose, there can be no doubt; and, that it meets a demand, the present large attendance testifies.

4. The fourth important measure marked a departure in the system of teacher training in New England and was introduced into the Vermont system for the purpose of meeting a condition that could not be met in any other way. The normal schools of the state never have, and never can supply the rural schools of the state. It is doubtful if they can supply the graded schools. Concerning the number who would probably graduate annually from the Vermont normal schools, there are no valid grounds for supposing that the proportion in Vermont will exceed the proportion of other New England states. On such a basis the Vermont normal schools will produce less than eighty teachers annually. This number falls far short of the three or four hundred needed annually, and the schools needing trained teachers the most, would probably receive the smallest percentage.

For years various attempts to elevate the standards of the normal schools or to secure through legislation better rural conditions, have been stoutly resisted by representatives of certain institutions, that ought to be leaders in education progress rather than hindrances. It is not consistent with justice or with good public policy to sacrifice state interest to local interest, or to jeopardize the common schools for the sake of one or two favored institutions. It is a most hopeful sign of the times that the people of the state begin to appreciate the urgency of the rural school problem. The state republican platform incorporated the following words:

"While the large central public schools of the state are doing splendid work, the small rural schools are not keeping pace. For the present these latter should be the especial care of the state. In so far as their standards can be improved by more liberal state aid, it should be extended."

The state democratic platform declared as follows:

"We favor a more liberal extension of the benefits of our school system to the rural communities and the introduction of more efficient supervision of such schools."

The chief educational problem today is the development of the country school and the rehabilitation of the countryside.

The country schools have been unfairly discriminated against in kind of buildings, in quality of equipment, in number of weeks, and in character of instruction. Justice demands that equality of educational advantages shall be afforded and that the country child be given the same school opportunities, so far as possible, as the city child.

The rural schools have always been the experiment station of teachers. If they tested out well, they were brought into the grades. This process will probably continue for years, but, if it is to continue, then in all justice and fairness to the country children, the state should send them the best teachers possible. Because the normal schools can never supply the rural schools with teachers, and because fairness demands that the previous discriminations cease, the teacher training courses have been established.

Twelve such courses were provided for during the past school year, skilled specialists were employed, and one hundred and fifty well trained teachers entered upon rural school teaching this season. This large accession of trained recruits to the teaching ranks of rural schools, adds a force of no trivial power and is an educational event of no mean magnitude.

### Exhibit 8 - 020 OUR NORMAL SCHOOLS.

In accordance with the declared purpose of the normal school law of 1910, the standard for admission to the normal schools was fixed at graduation from four-year courses in high schools and academies. This is the standard adopted by all the New England states and by all the leading states in educational matters. There is no reason why Vermont should trail behind other states in standards, and maintain a weaker normal school system. It is not consonant with its present spirit or dignity, and any attempt to degrade her standards should be resented. Nothing lower than the common standards of neighboring states and nothing but the best available in education will suffice true Vermonters.

No state normal school in New England and probably no state normal school in the United States is located in so small a community as that in which either of the normal schools of Vermont is located. It is the smallness of population in the normal school communities of Vermont that has provoked the question concerning the maintenance of the present normal schools at Castleton and Johnson. Model schools are necessary for demonstrating methods and management, and practice schools are necessary to secure skill in teaching. On account of the practical impossibility of affording sufficient demonstration and practice work, because of insufficient children, the state board of education advocates the change of these two institutions into others of more profitable character.

Also, as the normal school graduation will probably never exceed eighty, unless there is a large increase in the state's population, the number will not greatly exceed the minimum a profitable normal school should produce annually. It was for this reason also that the state board of education endeavored to enter upon a peaceable compromise and to allow each town to have a state institution more worthy of the state. All the probable students could be more conveniently accommodated and better instructed in the department of pedagogy of Middlebury College and the University of Vermont than in the present normal schools. This could be done at an expense of \$10,000 annually, in contrast to the present expense of \$20,000 annually. If the state were rich, it might be prodigal; but, on account of its limited revenues, it should expend its moneys so as to receive the largest returns regardless of any local sentiment or personal pride. The state's interests are superior to any local interests. The welfare of 66,000 children should not be jeopardized by any community advantages, and the educational progress of the state should not be impeded by any low standards or local considerations. The entire state should be a unit for the best, and the potential measures adopted and recommended therefore should be put into operation for the benefit of the present, for the security of the future, and for the welfare of all.

I cannot urge you gentlemen too strongly to give this subject,--the education of your children—your thoughtful and earnest attention.

#### FIRE INSURANCE UPON STATE PROPERTY.

The legislature of 1910, by its act No. 8, authorized me, "to appoint a commissioner or commissioners to investigate the fire insurance placed by our state, with a view to obtaining lower rates and more uniform system of valuation and placing of insurance." The act also authorized me, "to make such changes in the placing of the fire insurance, as after investigation, was deemed best."

For this purpose I endeavored to find a citizen of our state, thoroughly familiar with this subject and who was not a solicitor of insurance but was thoroughly conversant with the adjusting of losses. I appointed Mr. L.S. Hayes of Bellow Falls as sole commissioner, he having had large experience in various lines of fire insurance, and being in my estimation, in a position to act independently and effectively for the best interests of the state.

The result of the careful investigation made was that the property of the state was found insured—some to its full value; some partially; and a portion not at all;--the aggregate being \$945,875.00. The rates and forms of policies varied in material respects, and in some cases a fire would have developed conditions embarrassing and unbusinesslike. The heads of the various state departments had acted each according to his individual judgment, which had varied widely, and naturally there was no uniformity as to the insurance placed.

Reading between the lines of the act under which the investigation was made, I deemed it to be the judgment and expectation of the legislature that the property of the state should be fully protected by fire insurance, and that it should be done economically and systematically. With the assistance of Mr. Hayes, every piece of property owned by the state, whether real or personal, was appraised and scheduled. Architect Hira R. Beckwith of Claremont, N.H., was employed to appraise all the buildings and the head of each department scheduled the personal property in his charge. These schedules showed that the total cash valuation of property owned by the state on October 7, 1911, was \$2,051,509.00, of which \$1,394,810.00 was buildings and \$656,699.00 was personal property. Upon this, insurance was procured to the amount of \$1,850,000.00, or about 90 percent of its value. The policies are uniform in their application, each covering a proportionate amount upon every piece of property and in blanket form, this property is widely scattered, being located in sixty-two different places, and thus insurance companies can carry large lines. The risk was offered to every fire insurance company authorized to do business in Vermont, and is carried by forty-four companies, each writing from \$6,250.00 to \$125,000.00.

The average rate conceded by the companies upon this unusually good line of business was \$1.53 per \$100 for five years, the premium aggregating materially less to the state than the same amount of protection would have cost at the rates upon the individual risks as formerly insured. This premium has been paid by the state treasurer and charged up to the different departments as nearly according to the relative hazard of each class of property as possible.

Although the policies being written in 1911 for five years made a large proportionate expense for insurance in that biennial term, arrangements have been made for the rewriting of a fifth of the amount in each of the succeeding four years, so that thereafter the expense will be distributed evenly in each year.

The insurance had previously been controlled by only a few agents. It seemed to be the most just and equitable division of benefits accruing, to divide it as equally as possible among the leading agencies; and, as now written, eighty-three Vermont agents have a proportionate amount to place.

Since the insurance was placed one fire has occurred, whereby the equipment of Co. E., V.N.G., at Bellows Falls, was destroyed March 26, 1912. The insurance upon this property previous to the revision made last year was only \$300, but under the new contract the full amount of the cash loss, \$3,099.82, was paid, thereby demonstrating the wisdom of the re-arrangement of the insurance and the benefits to be derived from the present indemnity contract.

I earnestly recommend that legislation be enacted that will thoroughly protect the property of our State in an economical and businesslike manner. I am advised that certain states protect and carry their own risks but this policy would have been most unfortunate had it been adopted in Vermont. A review of the state's losses for the past fifty years fully justifies this conclusion.

#### FIRE PROTECTION.

The consideration of the fire protection of state's property leads naturally to the subject of our general fire protection as governing in our commonwealth.

Losses by fire are entirely different from other disasters. Failures, panics, etc., simply cause the change of ownership. The property still exists in the hands of others, but losses by fire completely wipe out the property whether owned by the people or the commonwealth, and the loss eventually and invariably falls upon the people.

With this fact firmly in mind, I have been reviewing the statistics of fire losses and premiums paid for fire protection during the last ten to twelve years. In 1901 the losses by fire paid in Vermont were \$475,869.95. These have increased till you will note that loss by fire paid in 1910 was \$916,122.77, almost doubled in ten years and this does not include the uninsured property or that only partially insured.

You will note that losses by fire in 1910 were fully a million dollars and when we realize that we have a population of only about 360,000 we learn that our per capita loss is \$2.96, while the per capita loss in the United States was \$2.33. Thus our average of per capita loss is 25 per cent higher than for the average of our

nation—a fact worthy of your attention, and especially so if you realize that the per capita loss by fire of the five leading nations of Europe for the year 1910 was 33 cents.

### OUR DEGENERATES.

This is a subject which has never received special attention by the legislature of our state. I have endeavored during the last two years to inform myself thoroughly upon the same, having corresponded with the secretaries of twenty or more of our most progressive states to learn what was being done with reference to this unfortunate class. I have obtained copies of their laws and have made a careful study of the same, and the more I have considered the subject, the more largely has its importance appealed to me. It is a subject of a delicate as well as an unpleasant nature.

The heads of our criminal institutions tell us that among the inmates there is always a considerable class that are termed "degenerates" or "defectives," by which is meant a class of individuals in whose mental or nervous construction there is something lacking. Alienists, criminalogists and physicians tell us that individuals of this unfortunate class tend to marry those cursed with similar defects, and that this class is increasing out of all proportion to the normal growth of the population, and that most of the insane, the epileptics, the imbeciles, the idiots, the sexual perverts, together with many of the confirmed inebriates, prostitutes, tramps and criminals that fill our penitentiaries, jails, asylums and poor farms are the results of these intermarriages or the natural offspring of defective parents. In the cases of these unfortunates there is little or no hope of permanent recovery, and the great question that is now being considered by the lawmakers in many of our states is how best to restrain this defective class and how best to restrict the propagation of defective children.

Let us consider this matter upon these facts:

- 1. The fact of the great number of public charges recruited from the defective classes.
- 2. The fact that defects, physical and mental, are transmitted to the offspring.

3. The fact that if a defective marry a defective, as is very often the case, the offspring will inherit the taints of both parents. That this class is prolific, knowing no law of self-restraint, and consequently defectives are increasing in numbers and are of a more pronounced type. What can be done to protect society from these unfortunates and what to protect them from themselves?

- 1. Restrictive legislation in regard to marriages.
- 2. Segregation of defectives.
- 3. A surgical operation known as vasectomy.

Restrictive legislation in regard to marriage.—Minnesota has a law providing as follows: That no woman under the age of forty-five years, or a man of any age, except he marry a woman over forty-five years of age, either of whom is epileptic, imbecile, feeble-minded or afflicted with insanity, shall intermarry or marry any other person in that state. Five or six other states have adopted restrictive statutes along similar lines. Of such legislation I heartily approve, but, while it is preventative in a certain class of cases, it does not and obviously cannot go far enough. While by preventing marriages among defectives, it restricts the propagation of defective children born in lawful wedlock, it does not restrict the propagation of children in those cases where the taint of degeneracy is coupled with that of illegitimacy.

Segregation of defectives.—Dr. R.W. Bruce Smith, of Toronto, writes on this subject, "What avails the continuous increase of hospitals, asylums, and similar institutions, if the number to occupy them grows faster than the accommodations?" and further on he says: "The only true course to be taken is to separate all the degenerates from society and keep them by themselves in carefully classified groups." This method of dealing with the problem would necessarily entail a very great expense for the establishment and maintenance of these colonies—conditions would have to be safeguarded with the same care as an actual penitentiary, and would, in many cases, result in life-imprisonment of unfortunates who are in no way responsible for their plight, but who might, in a small way, be of some use in the world, and who should be given the opportunity to enjoy life and liberty so far as they are capable of enjoying anything.

The operation known as vasectomy. This operation is simple, taking less than five minutes to perform. In the case of defectives and persons convicted of certain crimes it is strongly endorsed by Dr. Rentoul of Liverpool, England, and by Dr. Ex. Goddard of the training school for feeble-minded at Vineland, N.J. The states of Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and California, have laws upon this subject. Dr. H.C. Sharp, the physician of the Indiana reformatory, highly approves of this plan of restricting the propagation of defectives and abnormal criminals. He states that since 1899 he has performed this operation nearly two hundred and fifty times. He has had good opportunity to observe the past operative effects of this operation, and in this number of cases he has not observed a single unfavorable symptom. So far as any disturbance to the physical, mental or nervous system of the patient is concerned, his testimony, based upon observation, is that this operation is decidedly beneficial, rather than detrimental.

Let me, at this time, respectfully recommend to the legislature of 1912 that they at once take steps to safeguard and restrict the issuing of marriage licenses to persons convicted of rape, incest, open or gross lewdness, and cases where either of the parties are known to be suffering tuberculosis, syphilis, or epilepsy, and in cases where either party has been in confinement for habitual drunkenness, feeble-mindedness, or insanity.

And, I further recommend that a commission be appointed to investigate and report upon the advisability of the adoption of the operation of vasectomy as a prevention for the spread of hereditary taints and diseases.

#### STATE BENEFICIARIES.

At present, the state is supporting sixty-one children at various institutions. They are as follows:

Mass. School for Feeble-Minded	27	\$300.00	\$8,100.00
American School for Deaf	7	275.00	1,925.00
Perkins Inst. For Blind	7	300.00	2,100.00
Clarke School for Deaf	7	300.00	2,100.00
Mystic Oral School for Deaf	5	275.00	1,375.00
Penn. Training School	4	300.00	1,200.00
Conn. Inst. For Blind	1	300.00	300.00
Maine Inst. For Blind	2	300.00	600.00
Vineland School	1	300.00	300.00
	61		\$18,000.00

Of these children only eight have been designated during my administration. Four feeble-minded have been sent to the Massachusetts School for Feeble-Minded Children and one to a similar school at Vineland, N.J. I have designated one child to the Clarke School and one blind adult to the Maine Institution for the Blind. From the above figures you will notice the fact that the number of feeble-minded children designated to date is about fifty per cent larger than all the other classes of defectives. While something can be done for these unfortunates, the feeble-minded, it usually takes years to effect even a partial relief, and in most cases a designation means that the children will spend the rest of their days in the institutions to which they have been assigned. I have felt, during the two years of my administration, that it was the intent of chapter 60 to give help primarily to those cases where there was a reasonable hope of benefit. Thus, in the case of these unfortunates, I have tried to designate only those whose application papers held out a hope of a permanent and distinct improvement. If I have been a little conservative in the designation of deaf and dumb beneficiaries, it has been from the fact that the Austine Institution in Brattleboro was in process of erection and that most of the state beneficiaries of this class would be transferred from their present schools to this home. It seemed to me wiser to let the child make its beginning in our own institution, rather than to designate the applicants to some other school, and then, after a few months, to transfer them, to new surroundings. I have had very few applications from those suffering from blindness, and as stated above, I have designated two from this class and the reports of their progress are most gratifying.

Experience has taught us that deaf, dumb and blind children, after a few years of proper education, become self-supporting and valuable citizens, while the feeble-minded are a charge upon the state too often for life.

With a limited appropriation at our disposal much more can be accomplished by caring for the deaf and blind, and thus a much larger number of beneficiaries can be educated by the state's appropriation.

#### PAROLES.

In the exercise of my prerogative as governor, I have paroled to date two hundred and forty-three prisoners. Of these one hundred and seventeen have been paroled from the state prison at Windsor, one hundred and fourteen from the house of correction at Rutland, and twenty-two from the different county jails. Since the establishment of a State Commission on Probation, the executive department has endeavored in every way to cooperate, and at present I am sending the secretary of this commission monthly reports giving the names of the prisoners paroled, the date of expiration of their maximum sentence, their last known residence and the name of the probation officer to whom they report. These paroled prisoners, as a rule, have reported very well. Of course in some cases the prisoners leave the state as soon as they receive their parole and are never heard of again. Another class of prisoners who fail to report are those in whose case the difference in the period of time between the minimum and maximum sentences is short. I note that in those cases in which the period of time between the minimum and maximum sentence is a year or longer, the paroled prisoners are very careful about reporting on time. I think this custom of paroling at the expiration of the minimum sentence where the prisoner's conduct has been good is a very excellent one, and I should respectfully recommend to the legislature of 1912 that they enact a law requiring the difference in time between the minimum and maximum sentences to be largely increased. I believe that such a law would still further increase the regularity of the reports from the probationers and have a favorably restraining influence for that much longer period.

#### JAIL REMOVALS.

By virtue of the authority given me by the state laws, I have ordered three hundred removals from the different county jails to the house of correction. They are divided as follows:

Addison	6
Bennington	3
Caledonia	12
Chittenden	170
Essex	1
Franklin	28
Lamoille	1
Orleans	12
Washington	7
Windham	
Windsor	33

Unless there were certain urgent circumstances which made the change advisable, I have made no removal except in cases where the prisoner's sentence was over thirty days. Twice I have had to suspend the granting of these removals; once on account of an epidemic of diphtheria at the house of correction and again because of its crowded condition.

#### UNIFORM STATE LAWS.

I wish to call to your consideration a matter which I think should receive your very careful attention. I refer to the efforts of the various states of the union to promote uniformity of state laws. Under our form of government the states are independent in matters of local legislation. The inevitable result has been great conflict in the laws of the various states upon matters in which there ought to be uniformity. This resulted in so much embarrassment that in the year 1889 the American Bar Association appointed a special committee, which recommended to the association that a committee of one from each state should meet in convention from time to time and compare and consider the laws of the different states, especially those relating to marriage and divorce, descent and distribution of property, acknowledgement of deeds and execution and probate of wills.

The following year the legislature of New York passed an act authorizing the appointment by the Governor of three commissioners, to be known as "Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation among

the States" and making it their duty to examine the subjects of marriage and divorce, insolvency, the form of notarial certificates, and other subjects, and to ascertain the best means to effect an assimilation and uniformity in the laws of the state and to consider whether it would be wise and practicable to invite the other states of the union to send representatives to a convention to draft uniform laws to be submitted for approval and adoption by the several states.

As a result there has been established the present National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The conference is made up of commissioners appointed by the governors of the different states. Usually there are three commissioners appointed from each state participating in the conference. A large number of states have special acts authorizing the appointment of such commissioners, who are usually appointed for a term of five years. Most of the states provide for the payment of the expenses of the commissioners. The expenses of the conference are met by the different states participating therein through an appropriation for that purpose by the legislature. The number of states, territories and federal districts which have appointed commissioners is as follows:

States	45
Territories	3
Federal districts	1
Possessions	2
Total	51

The annual meeting of the conference is held at the same place and just prior to the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, and in conjunction therewith.

Previous to last year this state had taken little interest in the subject of uniform state legislation. Being impressed with the desirability of having this state represented at the conference and deeming it to the great advantage of the state so to do, I appointed a commission to attend that conference by virtue of the general act under which the governor of this state has the authority to appoint such a commission.

The act by virtue of which I made this appointment necessarily limits the activity of the commissioners to the particular conference. It seems very desirable, if the state of Vermont is to take any part with the other states in this work, that commissioners should be appointed for a number of years so that they may be continuity in their work.

Our commission attended the conference in Boston and have made a full report upon the general subject of Uniformity of State Legislation, explaining the origin and history of the conference, the details of the work and what has been accomplished by the conferences, and have recommended to me the adoption of the following Uniform State Laws recommended by the conference of commissioners and approved by the American Bar Association.

The "Negotiable Instruments Law"; the "Uniform Divorce Act"; "An Act Relating to Marriage and Marriage Licenses."

The "Negotiable Instruments Law" has been adopted by forty of the states, among them New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, three states with which we have very close relations. The "Uniform Divorce Act" has been adopted by three states.

The commissioners also report that they believe it would be wise to adopt the "Uniform Sales Act" now in force in ten states, and the "Uniform Bills of Lading Acts" now in force in eight states. Copies of the various acts referred to in their report are appended to said report. I quote the following from the report:

"Your commissioners believe that the attendance of Commissioners from this state at the various meetings of the National Conference, especially if these commissioners are appointed for sufficiently long terms of service to become familiar with the work of the conference, will result in benefit to the state. It will tend to produce more care in the drafting of laws, it will create a means by which the legislature of this state may be compared with that of other states. Uniformity of some of the more important branches of the law will be the

natural result. As the commerce of the nation becomes more and more inter-state and our business men are having increased business relations with people in other states, uniformity of the laws relating to commercial matters is of great advantage. Any work which tends to simplify and make uniform the laws of business, and thereby benefit the business interests, ought to be encouraged and promoted. We believe the adoption of our recommendations will promote that result."

The commissioners also recommend the passage of a law creating a board of commissioners by the name of "Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation in the United States," said board to consist of three members to serve without compensation, but to be reimbursed for all of their expenses in connection with the discharge of the duties of their office, and providing for contribution by this state to the expenses of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. A proposed draft of said law is appended to the report.

I respectfully submit to your attention and consideration the whole of said report and papers appended thereto.

I wish to express my approval of the recommendations made by the commissioners. Vermont should take an active part with the other states of the union in promoting a uniformity of state laws in inter-state matters.

### OUR WHITE COAL.

Some two years ago I was a guest at a banquet given by the Massachusetts Real Estate Exchange and I was asked to suggest what would benefit most efficiently industrial life in New England, and in my response, I enumerated among other commodities, free coal, as our distance from the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio made the cost of transportation for manufacturing purposes nearly prohibitive. We must have cheaper power to compete successfully with the factories of the great Middle West. I little realized at that moment that we had a white coal, so-called, running to waste at our doors, sufficient to furnish power for all our factories, all our mining purposes, and our electric lighting plants, and in addition sufficient to operate our steam and trolley railroads.

This white coal from hydro-electric development, free from smoke, soot, and cinders, attended with no fire risk, can be and is being developed today from our streams and rivers and furnished in certain localities for from 25 per cent to 33 1/3 per cent less per horsepower for all purposes than can be obtained from any other source. Our streams and rivers, including that being developed from the Connecticut River with power houses on the Vermont side, are today producing power sufficient to displace the use of a million tons of black coal annually, and this power can readily be distributed to every small and large town in that section of our state, and thus revive the hundreds of small factories which were formerly hives of industry in so many of our small villages.

Again, how different, financially, for our people and state, if this \$5,000,000, now paid annually to the coalproducers of Pennsylvania and Ohio should be produced and kept within our borders.

There has been developed on the Connecticut River at Vernon, six miles south of Brattleboro, what is probably the largest hydro-electric development in this country east of Niagara Falls. An immense concrete dam and power house on the Vermont shore with eight generators of more than three thousand horsepower capacity each, utilizes the flow of the Connecticut River, the dam creating a lake more than twenty-five miles long, and covering from four to five thousand acres. This development is, of course, partly in Vermont and partly in New Hampshire, as this is an inter-state river. Brattleboro thus far is the chief beneficiary of this development in Vermont, and nearly all the industries of Brattleboro are operated by this power, and the rapid growth of that town which is now taking place, is chiefly attributed to this development.

The same financial interests, but under another charter of organization, are making an enormous development of the power of the Deerfield River. This is also an inter-state river, having its rise in Stratton, Windham County, and flowing through several Windham and Bennington County towns, into Massachusetts. There are planned at least ten large hydro-electric developments on this stream; six of them are now in process of construction. The largest is a great storage dam and power plant at Somerset. This plant, now in process of construction, will flood two thousand acres of land to an average depth of forty feet, holding practically the

entire flood waters of the stream, which are to be so handled as to equalize the flow of the stream below. Twelve thousand horse-power will be generated at the Somerset plant.

Other plants in Vermont are proposed to be located at Wilmington, Whitingham, and Readsboro. An enormous expenditure of money will be made in the completion of the whole project. Between one and two million dollars will, it is said, be expended in the Somerset development alone, and the total developments on the stream in both Vermont and Massachusetts, will, it is said, cost about twelve million dollars. It is reasonable to expect that the whole Deerfield Valley will see a tremendous industrial growth within the next few years.

The Deerfield Valley project is conservation in the most approved way. The holding of the flood waters in storage for equalizing the flow of the stream in low water periods is essential to the best development of perhaps our greatest natural resource.

I have referred to the enormous development in Windham County, as it has progressed farther than in any other part of our state, but similar conditions, though less in magnitude, are found in other counties. The hydroelectric power in Rutland County, though feebly developed, is immense, and we have one corporation developing and using 5,000 horsepower annually, and double this efficiency could be obtained if necessity required. Rutland, Addison, Chittenden and Caledonia Counties afford promising opportunities for this development. The spirit of conservation should possess the people of our state and govern their endeavors, if we hope to keep abreast with the spirit of progress maintained by our neighbors. We should not fail to conserve and utilize the unlimited advantages so readily obtained from the development and use of our native white coal, found so abundantly upon nearly every hillside and in our valleys.

I would, therefore, earnestly recommend such legislation as will inure to further development of this natural wealth, realizing the immense benefits to be obtained if it is properly controlled and the rights of the state protected.

Also, to consider carefully some reasonable plan whereby possibly state aid could be given without risk for the development of these storage reservoirs, looking to the utilization thereby of the water powers on the streams further down. This is a subject worthy of your thoughtful consideration. Some action along this line would be a forward step and could be used with great force by our senators and representatives in Congress in obtaining national assistance.

It would make Vermont the most progressive of states, in the development and conservation of her natural resources.

#### HIGHWAYS.

Better highways for our state has always appealed to me as one of the most important subjects for legislation. It affects our religious, our agricultural, educational and social life, to a greater extent than any other condition, and if I am correctly advised our state has expended on her system of roads during the last two years about two million dollars, and the demand for good roads has been growing rapidly in Vermont for the past few years and resulted in the passage of the state aid law in 1906, appropriating \$50,000 which was available to those towns which would vote an equal amount, "dollar for dollar", under certain limitation. In 1908 the appropriation was increased to \$75,000, and again in 1910 to \$150,000. The number of towns voting and the amount of money for this purpose has increased year by year, until March, 1912, two hundred and twenty-seven (227) towns voted practically one hundred thousand dollars.

There has been a steady growth of sentiment in favor of the law as is evident by the annual increase in the number of towns available themselves of the act, and by the annual increase in the amounts voted, the largest increase being in the year 1912. No better evidence is necessary that the law meets with popular approval than this showing of the towns. Not a single year since its passage has there been any dropping off in the number of towns voting money, nor in the amount of money voted.

The past year 1911, and this year 1912, the biennial term just closing, show an advance in the quality of work done in that practically every improvement under state supervision has been carefully laid out by an

engineer with the idea of uniform construction. The gravel road was assumed to be the most economical for Vermont to build under present conditions when the law was enacted in 1906 and up to the present time no change has been made in this particular, save in large cities. In villages and towns where the traffic is excessive some of the best forms of macadam construction have been adopted, with the result that we have a small mileage of excellent macadam road built under state supervision in the past two years.

It is becoming more and more evident that a good earth road properly maintained is satisfactory for summer travel, and that in Vermont more attention will naturally be paid to roads of this kind in the future.

Our system of selected highways has been in the past two years somewhat increased by the addition of roads in different localities in the state that were not considered five years ago of sufficient public importance to warrant their being selected, but with the increased tourist travel it has seemed wise to your commissioner to open up some of the beauty spots of the state around our lakes and mountains, by the addition of some of the most attractive roads we have in the state, and it would seem that no better outlay of money could be made than to develop with special appropriations some of these roads that probably cannot be improved in any other way.

I earnestly recommend your thoughtful consideration of this important subject and sincerely trust that the good work being done may be continued.

#### TAXATION.

No subject with which you have to deal is of larger importance that a revision of our present system of taxation. At the last session a bill came to me for my signature, which I was obliged to withhold. The object of the measure had my entire approval, but the bill itself was crude and it seemed obvious would be impotent to accomplish its understood purpose. It had passed both legislative branches in the closing hours of the session and came to me at a time when my department was rushed to the limit of its capacity. Proper consideration was absolutely impossible, and two courses only were open to me, one to summon back legislators who had returned to their homes and hold the legislature until needed corrections could be made and the other to exercise my right to veto. Having in mind that the session had been unduly prolonged, and that to reform the measure would cause the state many thousand dollars expense, as well as prove a hardship to the members who had then left the capitol, I pursued the course which economy, and as it then and now seems to me the interests of our people, required.

The demand for a radical revision is insistent and has been for several sessions. The present law does not have general approval, but no tax system has ever been evolved by any state, ancient or modern, which has had universal approval and which will completely abolish the inequalities of taxation. The great trouble with us has been, that legislators held so many different and conflicting opinions about methods, there could be no common ground. Commissions have been authorized to study the tax system of other commonwealths and report to our General Assembly, but commissioners have disagreed mainly on unimportant questions and legislators in the infinite variety of "cure-alls" suggested have become confused and doubtful as to the expediency of proposed reforms.

A solution of the whole problem is not probable at any one session, but an immediate correction of some of the inequalities of the existing law, is imperatively demanded. Let me ask, that the first work of the Assembly now convened be directed to this problem. The constituencies you represent expect it and the state requires it. Let your aim be, to broaden opportunity, strike down inequalities, and lift the burdens from those least able to carry them. It is proper for you to inquire if corporate property pays its fair and just share; if large wealth may not be made to contribute its full and measured part; if financial institutions should enjoy the privileges that are denied to men; and if you shall find present laws unjust and unwise, it is your duty here to apply the remedy and to do it with unsparing hand. I counsel you, do no injustice to the rich or strong, but remember that governments exist to care for and protect the poor and weak. It is not in my province to direct what you do, but there is a command from all the people, irrespective of party, which you will gladly heed. The problems are not new; they are as old as the state; your predecessors have in the main wrought well, but the tax question remains unsolved.

### Exhibit 8 - 029 EXEMPTION FROM TRUSTEE PROCESS.

The absolute exemption of all sums to the amount of ten dollars due for labor from attachment, has been long asked for by the wage-earners of Vermont. Exemptions have been lavishly granted by former legislatures to our citizens engaged in various pursuits, but this meritorious measure has repeatedly failed of enactment. The present will of the people is unmistakable. They have made their decision. It is for you to record it in the laws of the state.

#### LABOR LEGISLATION.

Vermont has been progressive in this respect but not sufficiently so. The state is now entering the period of its greatest industrial development. More and more will measures for the betterment of labor conditions press for enactment. A careful study of the recent legislation in other states will convince you that the hour is at hand, when we ought to enact many of the beneficient measures now being asked for here. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and he is entitled to perform that labor under safe conditions and to be surrounded by every precaution and protection.

#### PREVENTION OF STRIKES.

There must continue to be differences between employer and employed. Every time such difference results in a "strike", there is loss not only immediate and substantial to those participating, but consequential to the state. Production has been reduced, consumption restricted, and the sum total of aggregate wealth lessened. To just what extent the state ought to intervene is a debatable question, but that its good offices might be invoked to adjust or at least to suggest honorable terms of settlement, will not be challenged. Many states and countries have boards of arbitration for this purpose. It will probably be going too far to say that the decision of such a board should be final and conclusive, but if one authorized by law and properly constituted could here investigate and recommend a basis of settlement, popular opinion, would, in most cases, bring adjustment without resort to coercive measures.

#### DIRECT PRIMARIES.

The day of the so-called "political boss" has closed. Vermont never knew him in the sense that he has existed in some of the great cities, and in other commonwealths, where as the "king-maker" on the day of convention or absolute dictator when party policies were to be defined, he was master of the state, but in some degree we accepted the leadership of certain citizens of commanding ability. The direct primary has successfully been invoked elsewhere to register the will of the people. In some cases the methods have been cumbersome; all of them expensive and occasionally impotent.

A simple, inexpensive method, one that will ensure the full, free choice of our citizenship, and one adapted to the peculiar conditions which exist here, is to be found in the recent enactments of the most progressive states.

#### CAMPAIGN EXPENSES.

The restriction of expenditures by candidates for office within such limits as would make it possible for the average citizen to aspire to any position in the government, and the publications of sworn statements, both before and after elections, are safeguards that should surround the ballot box and make it sacred to the people and the state. Recent disclosures have demonstrated that fabulous sums of money have been expended in the elections of some of the states. The high ideals, the lofty aims, the great purpose which characterizes the incomparable citizenship of our splendid commonwealth demand that public office shall be offered neither on the auction block or at private sale. Limit then the expenditures of candidates and nominees; require every expenditure and promise of place or pay to be published, and disfranchise forever those who disobey. Thus may the honor of our officials continue unsullied and the fair name of the state remain unsullied.

### Exhibit 8 - 030 CONCLUSION.

During the last two years, and especially for the past few months, our state and in short, our nation, has been passing through a period of intense political unrest, greater than we have experienced at any time during the last half-century.

There has been a general uplift or demand, in fact, for a general advance along all lines which could result in a betterment of the social and physical conditions of our people.

This progressive spirit has been planted in the fertile soil of our commonwealth and is rapidly securing a strong hold with our people. We have felt it in the betterment of our school life—our agricultural conditions and our highways; in the state control of corporate life; in the purity of the ballot box, in our endeavors for uniform laws; in our efforts for the elimination of mental and moral degenerates; and in short, along every avenue which leads to the uplift of our citizens.

You should, with all your strength, maintain the advances already made, and further progressive legislation should be enacted at this session, ever keeping in mind our peculiar conditions; not similar, in fact, to those of any other state.

You have before you the special report of each official of your state government. These you should study carefully as they will furnish you more complete and accurate information as to each department of our state government than can be obtained from any other source.

I cannot close without referring to a weakness or failure which seems to possess every legislature; viz., rapid increase of state expenses, and more particularly during the sessions of the legislature. I was greatly surprised to note that the expenditures of the lieutenant governor and General Assembly from 1900 to 1910, inclusive, were as follows:

### EXPENDITURES.

1900	\$ 61,979.83
1902	
1904	/
1906	81,714.21
1908	134,326.98
1910abox	ut 145,000.00

This increase of legislative expense of nearly 150 per cent is, in my judgment, wholly uncalled for, and an extravagance without an excuse. There are many avenues through which this money could have been expended which would have inured greatly to the good of our people. The spirit of progress toward better conditions is stimulating our people as never before, and is not here an opportunity for this legislature to set an example worthy of that ambition which should be the aim of every true Vermonter?

Do not deceive yourselves with the delusions that this money spent so lavishly does not come from the hard earnings of the common people. We boast of our revenues from corporate taxation. Don't forget that this money spent so freely comes from the great masses and when you are urged to vote large appropriations for some questionable purpose remember that you are indirectly emptying your own pockets. Let us strive to return to and maintain the economy of our fathers; only spending our state's money when it can be done for such purpose as will inure to the greatest good of our people.

*Gentlemen:* You are honored in being chosen as the representatives of the freemen of this state to guard carefully her present interest and to provide for her future with your best judgment, strengthened by your knowledge obtained from the experience of other legislatures.

You should ever realize the worthy examples of your ancestors who have assembled in these halls, and who have given our state a reputation for wise and helpful legislation unsurpassed by that of any other state. A galaxy of names is furnished which should serve as a stimulant to your highest endeavors. Your opportunity is ever present and your duty should call for your best efforts. With these thoughts ever in mind you should

realize the great blessings bestowed upon your state by a kind providence appreciating the worthy inheritance from your fathers, and may the results of your labors be of such nature that Vermont may continue to be regarded as one of the best governed states of our union.

JOHN A. MEAD

The governor having concluded his message, withdrew and the Joint Assembly dissolved.

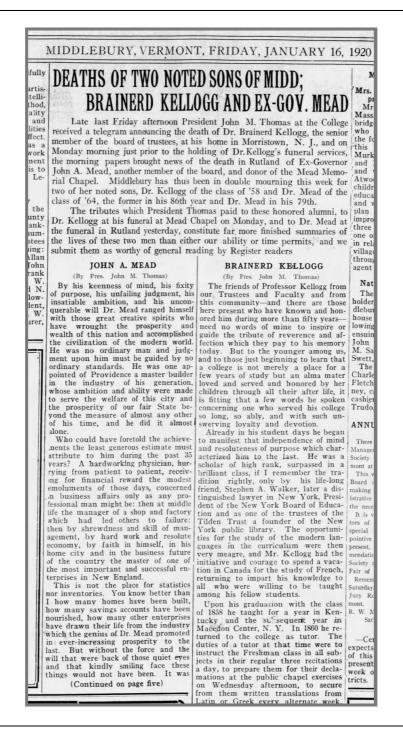
GUY W. BAILEY, Secretary of State, Clerk.



m John A. Mead, former governor of ci Vermont, who died at his home in Rutd land Monday, established his position in e the moral, intellectual, political and to business forces of this state by his long m years of indefatigable work. He was 0 not brilliant, but hard-headed, commone sensed and persistent in the pursuit of 0 whatever he undertook-qualities of high order and worthy of emulationti qualities that can be acquired in large  $\mathbf{b}$ measure by whomsoever will. Gov-16 ernor Mead established one of Vermont's largest industries on a firm footing and maintained it here when but for his influence it would probably have been rerict moved. In public life his record is one of aid of accomplishment. He is of the passing lay generation and the gaps are many and ng large and hard to fill. ate to h-

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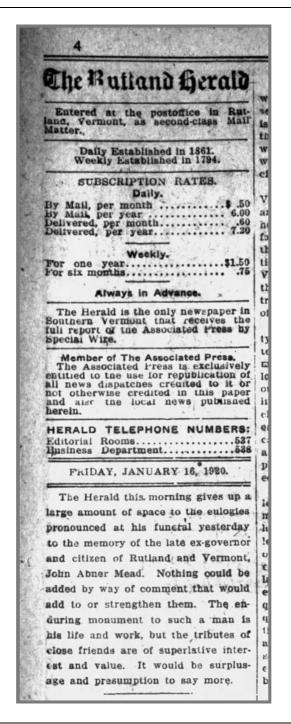




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# Exhibit 8 - 037



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Author: Richard Mead

Release Date: June 4, 2017 [EBook #54843]

Language: English

Character set encoding: UTF-8

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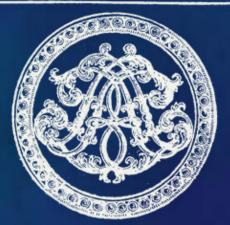
# A SHORT DISCOURSE

# Pestilential Contagion,

# METHODS

To be used to Prevent it.

By RICHARD MEAD, M. D. Fellow of the College of Phyficians and of the Royal Society.

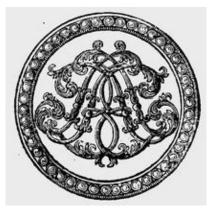


LONDON: Printed for Sam. Buckley in Amen-Corner, and Ralph Smith at the Royal-Exchange, 1720

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A SHORT DISCOURSE CONCERNING Pestilential Contagion, AND THE METHODS To be used to Prevent it.

By *RICHARD MEAD*, M.D. Fellow of the College of Physicians and of the Royal Society.



LONDON: Printed for Sam. Buckley in Amen-Corner, and Ralph Smith at the Royal-Exchange, 1720.



#### TO THE

**Right Honourable** 

James Craggs, Esq;

ONE OF

III

Ι

SIR,



Most humbly offer to You my Thoughts concerning the Prevention of the Plague, which I have put together by your Command. As soon as you was pleased to signify to me, in his Majestie's Absence; that their Excellencies the Lords Justices thought it necessary for the Publick Safety, upon the Account of the Sickness now in France, that proper Directions should be drawn up to defend our selves from such a Calamity; I most readily undertook the Task, though upon short Warning, and with little Leisure: I have therefore rather

put down the principal Heads of Caution, than a Set of Directions in Form.

The first, which relate to the performing Quarentines, &c. You, who are perfectly versed in the History of Europe, will see are agreable to what is practised in other Countries, with some new Regulations. The next, concerning the suppressing Infection here, are very different from the Methods taken in former Times among Us, and from what they commonly Do Abroad: But, I persuade my self, will be found agreable to Reason.

I most heartily wish, that the wise Measures, the Government has already taken, and will continue to take, with Regard to the former of these, may make the Rules about the latter unnecessary: However it is fit, we should be always provided with proper Means of Defence against so terrible an Enemy.

May this short Essay be received as one Instance, among many others, of the Care, you always shew for Your Country; and as a Testimony of the great Esteem and Respect, with which I have the Honour to be,

#### SIR,

Your most obedient, Most humble Servant,

Novemb. 25. 1720.

R. MEAD.



IX

IV

V

VI

VII

# PART I.

### OF THE

#### NATURE

OF

# CONTAGION.



hat the Reasonableness of any Method, which shall be proposed to prevent the spreading of *Contagious* Diseases, may the better appear, it is necessary to premise somewhat in general concerning *Contagion*, and the Manner, by which it acts.

Contagion is propagated by three Causes, the *Air*; *Diseased Persons*; and *Goods* transported from infected Places.

We shall therefore first enquire what alteration of the *Air* it is, that makes it *infectious*; and then, by what Means it communicates its noxious Quality to other Bodies.

The ancientest and best Authors of Physick, who lived in a Country more exposed to these Calamities than ours, observed the Constitution of the *Air*, which preceded *Pestilential Fevers*, to be great *Heats* attended with much *Rain* and *Southerly Winds*<sup>[1]</sup>: And one of Them takes particular Notice, that no other than a *moist* and *hot* Temperament of the *Air* brings the *Plague*; and that the Duration of this Constitution is the Measure of the Violence of the Distemper<sup>[2]</sup>.

The Natural History of several Countries confirms this Observation; in *Africa* particularly, if Showers fall during the sultry Heats of *July* and *August*, the *Plague* ensues thereupon, with which whosoever is infected hardly escapes<sup>[3]</sup>.

It has besides been remarked in all Times, that the Stinks of *stagnating Waters* in hot Weather, *putrid Exhalations* from the Earth; and above all, the Corruption of dead *Carcasses* lying unburied, have occasioned *infectious Diseases*.

From hence it appears to be a *Concurrence* of Causes, that produces Diseases of this Kind; which must not only meet, but exert their Force together for a considerable time. And when this happens, their first effect is a Degree of *Stagnation* in the Air, which is afterwards followed by *Corruption* and *Putrefaction*.

And upon this account it is, that those Countries are chiefly liable to these Calamities, where not only the *Heats* are very great, and the *Weather* continues long in the same State; but the *Winds* (the Use of which is by Motion to purify the Air) do not shift and change so often as they do in Northern Climates.

Indeed *Plagues* seem to be of the Growth of the *Eastern* and *Southern* Parts of the World, and to be transmitted from them into colder Climates by the Way of *Commerce*. Nor do I think, that in this *Island* particularly there is any one Instance of a *Pestilential* Disease among us of great Consequence; which we did not receive from other *infected* Places.

This I the rather mention, because it is a common Opinion, and propagated by Authors of great Name, that we are usually *visited* with the *Plague* once in 30 or 40 Years; which is a mere Fancy without any Foundation either in Reason or Experience: and therefore People ought to be delivered from the Subjection to such vain Fears.

On the contrary, though we have had several Strokes of this kind, yet there are Instances of bad *Contagions* from abroad being brought over to us, which have proved less malignant here by our

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PM A Short Discourse Concerning Pestilential Contagion, by Richard Mead—A Project Gutenberg eBook EXNIDIT 8 - 043 Air not being disposed to receive such Impressions.

The *Sweating Sickness*, called the *Sudor Anglicus* and *Febris Ephemera Britannica*, because it was commonly thought to have taken its Rise here, was most probably of a foreign Original, and no other than a *Plague* abated in its Violence by the mild Temperament of our Climate.

For, we learn from Histories, that the first time this was felt here, which was in the Year 1485, it began in the Army, with which King *Henry* VII. came from *France*, and landed in *Wales*<sup>[4]</sup>; and it was then thought to have been brought into *France* from the famous Siege of *Rhodes* by the *Turks* 3 or 4 Years before. And of the four Returns, which this has made since that Time; two, viz. *those* in the Years 1527, and 1528, may very justly be suspected to have been owing to the *Pestilence*, which at those Times raged in *Italy*, particularly at *Florence* and *Naples*<sup>[5]</sup>. And the others were very probably from a *Turkish* Infection.

I call this Distemper a *Plague* with lessened Force, because the Symptoms of it were of that kind, though in a less Degree; as great *Faintness* and *Inquietudes*, inward *Burning*, *Pain* in the *Head*, a *Delirium* &c. All which were accompanied with profuse *Sweats*, and the Disease lasted but 24 hours. And though for want of Care and due Management many died of it; yet, as a learned and wise *Historian*<sup>[6]</sup> observes, *It appeared rather to be a surprize of Nature than obstinate to Remedies, for if the Patient was kept warm with temperate Cordials, he commonly recovered.* 

And I cannot but take Notice, as a Confirmation of what I have been advancing, that we had here the same kind of Fever in the Year 1713, about the Month of *September*, which was called the *Dunkirk Fever*, as being brought by our Soldiers from that Place; where it was indeed a Malignant Disease attended with a *Diarrhœa*, *Vomiting*, &c. and probably had its Original from the Pestilential Distemper, which some time before broke out at *Dantzick* and *Hamburgh*: But with us was much more mild, beginning only with a Pain in the Head, and by very easy Means went off in large *Sweats*, after a Day's Confinement.

There being in every Air a greater Disposition to *Contagion* at one Time than another, we have indeed sometimes felt this Calamity with greater Fury; as particularly the last time in the Year 1665; when it continued in this *City* about ten Months, and swept away by computation 97306 Persons: But it was generally allowed, that the *Contagion* came by *Cotton* imported from *Turkey*<sup>[7]</sup>; and the long Duration of it, I believe, may justly be charged up the unhappy Management of infected Houses, which was then directed by Publick Authority; as I shall shew anon.

And the History of the most terrible of all the Plagues, that ever were in these Parts of the World, which was that in the Year 1349, gives a manifest Proof from whence all *Europe* may trace the Origine of these Evils, viz. from *Asia*: for <sup>[8]</sup>This taking its Rise in *China* in the Year 1346, advanced through the East *Indies* to *Syria*, *Turkey*, *Ægypt*, *Greece*, *Africa*, &c. In 1347 some Ships from the *Levant* carried it to *Sicily*, *Pisa*, *Genoa*, &c. In 1348 it got into *Savoy*, *Provence*, *Dauphiny*, *Catalonia*, *Castile*, &c. In 1349 it seized *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and *Flanders*; and in the next place *Germany*, *Hungary*, and *Denmark*; and in all these Countries made most incredible Havock.

But to return to the Consideration of the Air, which we left in a putrid State: It is to be observed, that Putrefaction is a kind of Fermentation, and that all Bodies in a Ferment emit a volatile active Spirit, of Power to agitate, and put into intestine Motions, that is, to change the Nature of other Fluids into which it insinuates it self.

It were easy to shew from the best *Theory* of Fevers<sup>[9]</sup>, how the Alterations made in the *Blood* this Way will favour *Pestilential* Diseases, by rendring the Body obnoxious to them: But the Digression would be too great.

THIS is one step towards *Contagion*. The next, as it seems to me, proceeds after this Manner. The Blood in all *Malignant Fevers*, especially *Pestilential* ones, at the latter End of the Disease, does like Fermenting Liquors throw off a great Quantity of active Particles upon the several *Glands* of the Body, particularly upon those of the Mouth and Skin, from which the Secretions are naturally the most constant and large. These, in *Pestilential* Cases, although the Air be in a right State, will generally infect those, who are very near to the sick Person; otherwise are soon dispersed and lost: But when in an evil Disposition of *This* they meet with the subtle Parts, its Corruption has

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generated, by uniting with them they become much more active and powerful, and likewise more durable and lasting, so as to form an *Infectious Matter* capable of conveying the Mischief to a great Distance from the diseased Body, out of which it was produced.

They who know what strange Attractions and Combinations are made by volatile Spirits will understand this Reasoning; especially if they consider, how easily all kinds of *Effluvia* are diffused in a warm Air, such as we have described an Infectious one to be; and further, of how penetrating a Force the finest Parts of Animal Juices are; of which the strange Stench of a mortified Limb, upon a Body yet living, will convince any one.

A corrupted State of Air is without doubt necessary to give these *Contagious Atoms* their full Force; for otherwise it were not easy to conceive how the *Plague*, when once it had seized any Place, should ever cease, but with the Destruction of all the Inhabitants: Which is readily accounted for by supposing an Emendation of the Qualities of the Air, and the restoring of it to a healthy State capable of dissipating and suppressing the Malignity.

On the other hand it is evident, that *Infection* is not received from the Air it self, however predisposed, without the Concurrence of something emitted from *Infected* Persons; because, by strictly preventing all Intercourse of Infected Places with the Neighbourhood, it may be effectually kept from spreading: Whereas the least Wind must necessarily convey whatever noxious Quality resides in the Air alone, even to a great Distance. Of this we have had a fresh Proof in the present unhappy *Plague* in *France*, which, by keeping careful Guard, was confined for a considerable Time within the Walls of *Marseilles*; so that none of the adjacent Villages suffered any thing by it; till at length some Persons finding Means to escape carried the Infection along with them. And we find, they have been able, by the like Care, still to restrain it within moderate Bounds.

This is the Manner by which Infectious *Effluvia* are generated; The Way, by which a sound Person receives the Injury, I suppose most commonly to be this. These *Contagious* Particles being drawn in with the Air we breath, they taint in their Passage the *Salival* Juices, which being swallowed down into the Stomach presently fix their Malignity there; as appears from the *Nausea* and *Vomiting*, with which the Distemper often begins its first Attacks. Though I make no Question but the *Blood* is also more immediately affected by hurtful Particles being mixed through Inspiration with it in the Lungs.

The third Way, by which we mentioned *Contagion* to be spread, is by *Goods transported from infected Places*. It has been thought so difficult to explain the Manner of *this*, that some Authors have imagined *Infection* to be performed by the Means of *Insects*, the *Eggs* of which may be conveyed from Place to Place, and make the Disease when they come to be *hatched*. As this is a supposition grounded upon no manner of Observation, so I think there is no need to have Recourse to it. If, as we have conjectured, the *Matter of Contagion* be an active Substance, perhaps in the Nature of a *Salt*, generated chiefly from the Corruption of a *Humane Body*, it is not hard to conceive how this may be lodged and preserved in soft, porous Bodies, which are kept pressed close together.

We all know how long a time *Perfumes* hold their *Scent*, if wrapt up in proper Coverings: And it is very remarkable, that the strongest of these, like the *Matter* we are treating of, are mostly *Animal* Juices, as *Mosch*, *Civet*, &c. and that the Substances found most fit to keep them in, are the very same with those which are most apt to receive and communicate *Infection*, as, *Furrs*, *Feathers*, *Silk*, *Hair*, *Wool*, *Cotton*, *Flax*, &c. the greatest Part of which are likewise of the Animal Kind; which Remark alone may serve to lead Us a little into the true Nature of *Contagion*.

From all that has been said, it appears, I think, very plainly, that the *Plague* is a real Poison, which being bred in the Eastern or Southern Parts of the World, maintains it self there by circulating from *Infected* Persons to Goods; which is chiefly owing to the Negligence of the People in those Countries, who are stupidly Careless in this Affair: That when the Constitution of the Air happens to favour Infection, it rages there with great Violence; That at that Time more especially diseased Persons give it to one another, and *Contagious Matter* is lodged in Goods of a loose and soft Texture, which being packt up, and carried into other Countries, let out, when opened, the imprisoned Seeds of Contagion: And lastly, That the Air cannot diffuse and spread these to any great Distance, if Intercourse and Commerce with the Place infected be strictly prevented.

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# PART II.

## OF THE

# METHODS

#### TO PREVENT

#### CONTAGION.



s it is a satisfaction to know, that the *Plague* is not a Native of our Country, so this is likewise an Encouragement to the utmost Diligence in finding out Means to keep our selves clear from It.

This Caution consists of two Parts: *The preventing its being brought into our Island*; And, if such a Calamity should happen, *The putting a stop to its spreading* 

among us.

The first of these is provided for by the established Method of obliging Ships, that come from *Infected* Places, to *perform Quarentine*: As to which I think it necessary, that the following Rules be observed.

Near to our several Ports, there should be *Lazarettos* built in convenient Places, on little Islands if it can so be, for the Reception both of Men and Goods, which arrive from Places suspected of *Infection*: The keeping Men in *Quarentine* on board the Ship being not sufficient; the only Use of which is to observe whether any dye among them. For *Infection* may be preserved so long in Cloaths, in which it is once lodged, that as much, nay more of it, if Sickness continues in the Ship, maybe brought on Shoar at the End than at the beginning of the 40 Days: Unless a new *Quarentine* be begun every time any Person dies; which might not end, but with the Destruction of the whole Ship's Crew.

If there has been any *Contagious* Distemper in the Ship; The *Sound* Men should leave their Cloaths; which should be burnt; the Men washed and shaved; and having fresh Cloaths, should stay in the *Lazaretto* 30 or 40 Days. The reason of this is, because Persons may be recovered from a Disease themselves, and yet retain *Matter* of *Infection* about them a considerable Time; as we frequently see the *Small-Pox* taken from those, who have several Days before passed through the Distemper.

The *Sick*, if there be any, should be kept in Houses remote from the *Sound*; and some time after they are well, should also be washed and shaved, and have fresh Cloaths; whatever they wore while Sick being burnt: And then being removed to the Houses of the *Sound*, should continue there 30 or 40 days.

I am particularly careful to destroy the *Cloaths* of the Sick, because they Harbour the very *Quintessence* of *Contagion*. A very ingenious  $Author^{[10]}$  in his admirable Description of the *Plague* at *Florence* in the Year 1348, relates what himself saw: That two *Hogs* finding in the Streets the *Rags*, which had been thrown out from off a poor Man dead of the Disease, after snuffling upon them, and tearing them with their Teeth, fell into Convulsions, and dyed in less than an Hour.

If there has been no Sickness in the Ship, I see no reason why the Men should perform *Quarentine*. Instead of this, they may be washed, and their Cloaths aired in the *Lazaretto*, as Goods, for one Week.

But the greatest Danger is from such Goods, as are apt to retain Infection, such as Cotton, Hemp and Flax, Paper or Books, Silk of all sorts, Linen, Wool, Feathers, Hair, and all kinds of Skins. The

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*Lazaretto* for these should be at a Distance from that for the Men, and they must in convenient Warehouses be unpackt, and exposed, as much as may be, to the fresh Air for 40 Days.

This may perhaps seem too long; but as we don't know how much Time precisely is necessary to purge the Interstices of Spongy Substances from *infectious Matter* by fresh Air, the Caution cannot be too great in this Point: Unless there could be a Way found out, without hazarding Men's Lives, of trying when Bodies have done emitting the Noxious Fumes; which possibly might be done by putting tender *Animals* near to them, particularly by setting little *Birds* upon the exposed Goods; because it has been observed in Times of the *Plague*, that the Country has been forsaken by the *Birds*; and those kept in Houses have many of them dyed<sup>[11]</sup>. But the Use of this Fancy Experience only must shew; for I am well aware, that all *Plagues* do not indifferently affect all Kinds of living Creatures; on the contrary, most are confined to a particular *Species* of them; like the Disease of the *Black Cattle* a few Years since, which neither proved Infectious to other Brutes, nor to Men.

I take it for granted, that the *Goods* should be *opened*, when they are put into the *Lazaretto*, otherwise their being there will avail nothing. The Misfortune, which happened in the Island of *Bermudas* about 25 Years since, gives a Proof of this; where, as the Account has been given me by the learned Dr. *Halley*, a Sack of *Cotton*, put on Shoar by Stealth, lay above a Month without any Prejudice to the People of the House, where it was hid; but when it came to be distributed among the Inhabitants, it carried such a *Contagion* along with it, that the living scarce sufficed to bury the Dead.

Indeed as it has been frequently experienced, that of all the Goods, which harbour *Infection*, *Cotton* in particular is the most dangerous, and *Turkey* is almost a perpetual *Seminary* of the *Plague*; I cannot but think it highly reasonable, that whatever *Cotton* is imported from that Part of the World, should at all Times be kept in *Quarentine*; because it may have imbibed *Infection* at the Time of its packing up, notwithstanding no Mischief has been felt from it by the Ship's Company.

As all reasonable Provisions should be made both for the *Sound* and *Sick*, who perform *Quarentine*; so the strict keeping of it ought to be inforced by the severest *Penalties*. And if a Ship come from any Place, where the *Plague* raged, at the Time of the Ship's Departure from it, with more than usual Violence, it will be the securest Method to *Burn* all the *Goods*, and even the *Ship*.

Nor ought this further Caution to be omitted, That when the *Contagion* has ceased in any Place by the approach of Winter, it will not be safe to open a free Trade with It too soon: Because there are Instances of the *Distemper's* being stopt by the Winter Cold, and yet the Seeds of it not destroyed, but only kept unactive, till the Warmth of the following Spring has given them new Life and Force. Thus in the great Plague at *Genoa* near 60 Years ago, which continued part of two Years; the first Summer about 10,000 dyed; the Winter following hardly any; but the Summer after no less than 60,000. So likewise the last *Plague* at *London* began the Autumn before the Year 1665, and was stopt during the Winter by a hard Frost of near three Month's Continuance; so that there remained no further Appearance of it till the ensuing Spring<sup>[12]</sup>. Now if Goods brought from such a Place should retain any of the latent Contagion, there will be Danger of their producing the same Mischief in the Place, to which they are brought, as they would have caused in that, from whence they came.

But above all it is necessary, that the *Clandestine Importing* of Goods be punished with the utmost Rigour; from which wicked Practice I should at this Time apprehend more Danger of bringing the *Disease* from *France*, than by any other Way whatsoever.

These are, I think, the most material Points, to which Regard is to be had in defending ourselves against *Contagion* from other Countries. The particular Manner of putting these Directions in Execution, as the *Visiting* of *Ships*, *Regulation* of *Lazarettos*, &c. I leave to proper Officers, who ought sometimes to be assisted herein by able Physicians.

The next Consideration is, What to do in Case, through a Miscarriage in the publick Care, by the Neglect of Officers, or otherwise, such a Calamity should be suffered to befall us.

There is no *Evil* in the World, in which the great Rule of *Resisting the Beginning*, more properly takes Place, than in the present Case; and yet it has unfortunately happened, that the common Steps formerly taken have had a direct Tendency to hinder the putting *this Maxim* in Practice.

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As the *Plague* always breaks out in some particular Place, it is certain, that the Directions of the *Civil Magistrate* ought to be such, as to make it as much for the Interest of Families to discover their Misfortune, as it is, when a House is on *Fire*, to call in the Assistance of the Neighbourhood: Whereas on the contrary, the Methods taken by the Publick, on such Occasions, have always had the Appearance of a severe *Discipline* and even *Punishment*, rather than of a *Compassionate Care*: Which must naturally make the *Infected* conceal the Disease as long as was possible.

The main Import of the *Orders* issued out at these Times was, As soon as it was found, that any House was infected, to keep it shut up, with a *large red Cross*, and *Lord have Mercy upon us* on the Door; and Watchmen attending Day and Night to prevent any one's going in or out, except *Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Nurses, Searchers, &c.* allowed by Authority: And this to continue at least a Month after all the Family was *dead* or *recovered*<sup>[13]</sup>.

It is not easy to conceive a more dismal Scene of Misery, than this; Families seized with a Distemper, which the most of any in the World requires Help and Comfort, lockt up from all their Acquaintance; left it may be to the Treatment of an inhumane Nurse (for such are often found at these Times about the Sick;) and Strangers to every thing but the Melancholy sight of the Progress, Death makes among themselves; with small Hopes of Life, and those mixed with Anxiety and Doubt, whether it be not better to Dye, than to survive the Loss of their best Friends, and nearest Relations.

If *Fear*, *Despair*, and all *Dejection of Spirits* dispose the Body to receive *Contagion*, and give it a great Power, where it is received, as all Physicians agree they do, I don't see how a Disease can be more enforced, than by such a Treatment.

Nothing can justify such *Cruelty*, but the Plea, that it is for the Good of the whole *Community*, and prevents the spreading of *Infection*. But this upon due Consideration will be found quite otherwise: For while *Contagion* is kept nursed up in a House, and continually encreased by the daily Conquests it makes, it is impossible but the *Air* should by Degrees become *tainted*, which by opening Windows, &c. will carry the Malignity first from House to House; and then from one Street to another. The shutting up Houses in this Manner is only keeping so many *Seminaries* of *Contagion*, sooner or later to be dispersed abroad: For the waiting a Month, or longer, from the Death of the last Patient will avail no more, than keeping a *Bale* of infected *Goods* unpack'd; the Poyson will fly out, whenever the *Pandora's Box* is opened.

As these Measures were owing to the Ignorance of the true Nature of *Contagion*, so they did, I firmly believe, contribute very much to the long Continuance of the *Plague*, every time they have been practised in this City: And no doubt they have had as ill Effects in other Countries.

It is therefore no wonder, that great Complaints were sometimes made here against this unreasonable Usage; which, when they prevailed so far, as to procure some Release for the *Sick*, were remarkably followed with an Abatement of the Disease. The *Plague* in the Year 1636 began with great Violence, but Leave being given by the King's Authority for People to quit their Houses; it was observed, That *not one in twenty of the well Persons removed fell Sick, nor one in ten of the Sick dyed*<sup>[14]</sup>. Which single Instance alone, had there been no other, should have been of Weight ever after to determine the Magistracy against too strict Confinements. But besides this, a preceding *Plague*, viz. in the Year 1625, affords us another Instance of a very remarkable Decrease upon the discontinuing to *shut up* Houses. It was indeed so late in the Year, before this was done, that the near Approach of Winter was doubtless one Reason for the Diminution of the Disease, which followed: Yet this was so very great, that it is at least past dispute, that the Liberty then permitted was no Impediment to it: For this *opening* of the Houses was allowed of in the beginning of *September*; and whereas the last Week in *August*, there dyed no less than 4218, the very next Week the *Burials* were diminuished to 3344, and in no longer time than to the fourth Week after, to  $852^{[15]}$ .

Since therefore the Management in former Times neither answers the Purpose of *discovering the Beginning* of the *Infection*, nor of putting a stop to it when *Discovered*, other Measures are certainly to be taken; which I think should be of this Nature.

Instead of *ignorant old Women*, who are generally appointed *Searchers* in Parishes to enquire what Diseases People dye of, That *Office* should be committed to *Understanding and Diligent Men*,

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whose Business it should be, as soon as they find any have dyed after an uncommon Manner, particularly with *livid Spots, Buboes*, or *Carbuncles*, to give Notice thereof to the Magistrates; who should immediately send skilful Physicians to Visit the Houses in the Neighbourhood, especially of the *Poorer* sort, among whom this Evil generally begins; and if upon their Report it appears, that a *Pestilential Distemper* is broke out among the Inhabitants, They should without Delay order all the Families, in which the Sickness is, to be *Removed*; The Sick to different Places from the *Sound*; but the Houses for both should be three or four Miles out of Town; and the *Sound* People should be *stript of all their Cloaths*, and *washed* and *shaved*, before they go into their new Lodgings.

No Manner of *Compassion* and *Care* should be wanting to the *Diseased*; to whom, being now in *clean* and *airy* Habitations, there would, with due Cautions, be no great Danger in giving Attendance. All Expences should be paid by the Publick, and no Charges ought to be thought great, which are counterbalanced with the saving a Nation from the greatest of Calamities. Nor does it seem to me at all unreasonable, that a *Reward* should be given to the Person, that makes the first Discovery of *Infection* in any Place; since it is undeniable, that the making known the *Evil* to those, who are provided with proper Methods against it, is the first and main Step towards the overcoming it.

When the *Sick Families* are gone, all the Goods of the Houses, in which they were, should be *burnt*; nay the Houses themselves, if that can conveniently be done. And after this all possible Care ought still to be taken to remove whatever Causes are found to breed and promote *Contagion*. In order to this, the *Overseers* of the Poor (who might be assisted herein by other Officers) should visit the Dwellings of all the meaner sort of the Inhabitants, and where they find them *stifled up too close* and *nasty*, should lessen their Number by sending some into better Lodgings, and should take Care, by all Manner of Provision and Encouragement, to make them more *cleanly* and *sweet*.

No good Work carries its own Reward with it so much as this kind of *Charity*; and therefore be the Expence what it will, it must never be thought unreasonable. For nothing approaches so near to the first Original of *Contagion*, as Air pent up, loaded with Damps, and corrupted with the Filthiness, that proceeds from *Animal Bodies*.

Our common *Prisons* afford us an Instance of this, in which very few escape, what they call the *Gaol Fever*, which is always attended with a Degree of *Malignity* in proportion to the *Closeness* and *Stench* of the Place: And it would certainly very well become the Wisdom of the Government, as well with Regard to the Health of the *Town*, as in Compassion to the *Prisoners*, to take Care, that all *Houses of Confinement* should be kept as Airy and Clean, as is consistent with the Use, to which they are designed.

The *Black Assize* at *Oxford*, held in the Castle there in the Year 1577, will never be forgot<sup>[16]</sup>; at which the *Judges*, *Gentry*, and almost all that were present, to the Number of 300, were killed by a *poysonous Steam*, thought by some to have broke forth from the *Earth*; but by a *noble* and *great* Philosopher<sup>[17]</sup> more justly supposed to have been brought by the *Prisoners* out of the *Goal* into *Court*; it being observed, that they alone were not injured by it.

At the same time, that this Care is taken of *Houses*, the proper Officers should be strictly charged to see that the *Streets* be washed and kept clean from *Filth*, *Carrion*, and all Manner of *Nusances*; which should be carried away in the *Night Time*; nor should the *Laystalls* be suffered to be too near the City. *Beggars* and *Idle Persons* should be taken up, and such miserable Objects, as are neither fit for the common *Hospitals*, nor *Work-houses*, should be provided for in an *Hospital of Incurables*.

Orders indeed of this kind are necessary to be observed at all times, especially in populous Cities; and therefore I am sorry to take Notice, that in *these* of *London* and *Westminster* there is no good *Police* established in these Respects; for want of which the Citizens and Gentry are every Day annoyed more ways than one.

If these early *Precautions*, we have mentioned, take Effect, there will be no need of any Methods for *Correcting the Air*, *Purifying Houses*, or of *Rules for preserving particular Persons from Infection*: To all which, if the *Plague* get head, so that the *Sick* are too many to be removed, Regard must be had.

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As to the *first*; *Fire* has been almost universally recommended for this Purpose, both by the Ancients and Moderns; who have advised to make frequent and numerous *Fires* in the Towns infected: By which Means, it is said, *Hippocrates* preserved *Greece* from a *Plague*, which was entring into it from *Æthiopia*<sup>[18]</sup>. And it is certain, that some evil Dispositions of the Air, particularly such as proceed from *Damps*, *Exhalations*, &c. may be corrected by *Fire*, and the Predisposition of it to receive *Infection* from these Causes sometimes removed. But when the Distemper is actually *begun*, and rages, since it is known to be *spread* and *increased* by the *Heat* of the *Summer*, and on the contrary checked by the *cold* in *Winter*; undoubtedly, whatever increases that *Heat* will so far add Force to the Disease. Whether the Service *Fires* may do by correcting any other ill Qualities of the Air will counterbalance the Inconvenience upon this Account, Experience only can determine; and the Fatal success of the Tryals made here in the last *Plague*, is more than sufficient to discourage any further Attempts of this Nature; for *Fires* being ordered in all the *Streets* for three Days together, there dyed in one Night following no less than 4000; whereas in any single Week before or after, not much above three times that Number were carryed off<sup>[19]</sup>.

What has been said of *Fires*, is likewise to be understood of *firing of Guns*, which some have too rashly advised. The proper Correction of the Air would be to make it *fresh* and *cool*. Accordingly the *Arabians*<sup>[20]</sup>, who were best acquainted with the Nature of *Pestilences*, advise People to keep themselves as *airy* as possible, and to chuse Dwellings exposed to the Wind.

For keeping *Houses* cool, they took to be the best Method of *purifying* them; and therefore to answer this End more fully, they directed to strew them with *cooling* Herbs, as *Roses*, *Violets*, *Water-Lillies*, &c. and to be washed with *Water* and *Vinegar*; than all which, especially the last, nothing more proper can be proposed: Though it be directly contrary to what Modern Authors mostly advise, which is to make Fumes with hot Things, as *Benzoin*, *Frankincense*, *Asa Fœtida*, *Storax*, &c. from which I see no reason to expect any Virtue to destroy the Matter of *Infection*, or to keep particular Places from a Disposition to receive it; which are the only things here to be aimed at. It is of more Consequence to be observed, that as *Nastiness* is a great Source of *Infection*, so *Cleanliness* is the greatest Preservative: Which is the true Reason, why the Poor are most obnoxious to Disasters of this Kind.

The next thing after the *purifying of Houses*, is to consider by what Means particular *Persons* may best defend themselves against *Contagion*; for the effectual doing of which it would be necessary to put the *Humours* of the *Body* into such a State, as not to be alterable by the *Matter of Infection*. But since this is no more to be hoped for, than a *Specific Preservative* from the *Small-Pox*; the most that can be done, will be to keep the Body in such Order, that it may suffer as little as possible. The *first Step* towards which, is to maintain a good State of Health, in which we are always least liable to suffer by any external Injuries; and not to weaken the Body by Evacuations. The next is, to guard against all Dejection of Spirits, and immoderate Passions; for these we daily observe do expose Persons to the more common *Contagion* of the *Small-Pox*. These Ends will be best answered by living with Temperance upon a good generous Diet, and avoiding *Fastings*, Watchings, extreme Weariness, &c. Another Defence is, to use whatever Means are proper to keep the Blood from Inflaming. This, if it does not secure from contracting Infection, will at least make the *Effects* of it less violent. The most proper Means for this, according to the Advice of the Arabian Physicians, is the repeated Use of acid Fruits, as Pomegranates, Sevil Oranges, Lemons, tart Apples, &c. But above all of Wine-Vinegar in small Quantities, rendered grateful to the Stomach by the Infusion of some such Ingredients as Gentian Root, Galangal, Zedoary, Juniper Berries, &c. Which Medicines by correcting the Vinegar, and taking off some ill Effects it might otherwise have upon the Stomach, will be of good Use: But these, and all other hot Aromatic Drugs, though much recommended by Authors, if used alone, are most likely to do hurt by over heating the Blood.

But since none of these Methods promise any certain Protection; as *leaving* the Place infected is the surest *Preservative*, so the next to it, is to avoid, as much as may be, the *near Approach* to the *Sick*, or to such as have but *lately Recovered*. For the greater Security herein, it will be advisable to avoid all *Crouds of People*. Nay it should be the Care of the *Magistrate* to prohibit all unnecessary *Assemblies*; and likewise to oblige all, who get over the Disease, to *Confine* themselves for some time, before they appear abroad.

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The Advice to keep at a Distance from the *Sick*, is also to be understood of the *Dead Bodies*: which should be *buried* at as great a Distance from Dwelling Houses, as may be; put *deep* in the Earth; and *covered* with the exactest Care. They should likewise be *carried out* in the *Night*, while they are yet fresh and free from Putrefaction: Because a Carcass not yet beginning to Corrupt, if kept from the Heat of the Day, hardly emits any kind of Steam or Vapour.

As for those, who must of necessity attend the *Sick*; some further Directions should be added for their Use. These may be comprehended in two short Precepts. *One* is, not to *swallow their Spittle* while they are about the *Sick*, but rather to *spit* it out: *The other*, not so much as to *draw in their Breath*, when they are very near them. The reason for both these appears from what has been said above concerning the Manner, in which a sound Person receives the Infection.

This is the Sum of what I think most likely to stop the Progress of the Disease in any Place, where it shall have got Admittance. If some few of these Rules refer more particularly to the City of London, with small Alteration they may be applied to any other *Place*. It now remains therefore only to lay down some Directions to hinder the Distemper's spreading from Town to Town. The best Method for which, where it can be done, is to cast up a *Line* about the *Town infected*, at a convenient Distance; and by placing a Guard, to hinder People's passing from it without due Regulation, to other Towns: But not absolutely to forbid any to withdraw themselves, as they have now done in *France*, according to the usual Practice abroad; which is an unnecessary Severity, not to call it a Cruelty. I think it will be enough, if all, who desire to pass the *Line*, be permitted to do it, upon Condition they first perform Quarantine for about 20 Days in Tents, or other more convenient Habitations. But the greatest Care must be taken, that none pass without conforming themselves to this Order, both by keeping diligent *Watch*, and by *punishing* with the utmost Severity, any that shall either have done so, or attempt it. And the better to discover such, it will be requisite to oblige all, who travel in any Part of the Country, under the same Penalties, to carry with them *Certificates* either of their coming from Places not *Infected*, or of their passing the *Line* by permission.

This I take to be a more effectual Method to keep the *Infection* from spreading, than the absolute refusing a Passage to People upon any Terms. For when Men are in such imminent Danger of their Lives, where they are; many, no doubt, if not otherwise allowed to escape, will use Endeavours to do it secretly, let the Hazard be ever so great. And it can hardly be, but some will succeed in their Attempts; as we see fell out in France notwithstanding all their Care. But one that gets off thus clandestinely, will be more like to carry the Distemper with him, than twenty, nay a hundred, that go away under the preceding Restrictions: Especially because the Infection of the Place, he flies from, will by this Management be rendered much more intense. For confining People, and shutting them up together in great Numbers, will make the Distemper rage with augmented Force, even to the increasing it beyond what can be easily imagined; As appears from the Account, which the learned Gassendus<sup>[21]</sup> has given us of a memorable Plague, which happened at Digne in Provence, where he lived, in the Year 1619. This was so terrible, that in one Summer out of ten thousand Inhabitants, it left but *fifteen hundred*, and of them all but *five* or *six* had gone through the *Disease*. And he assigns this, as the principal Cause of the great Destruction, That the Citizens were too closely confined, and not suffered so much as to go to their Country Houses. Whereas in another *Pestilence*, which broke out in the same Place a year and half after, more Liberty being allowed, there did not dye above one hundred Persons.

For these Reasons, I think, to allow People with proper *Cautions* to remove from an infected Place, is the best Means to suppress the *Contagion*, as well as the most humane Treatment of the present Sufferers: But though Liberty ought to be given to the *People*, yet no sort of *Goods* must by any means be suffered to be carried over the *Line*, which are made of *Materials* retentive of *Infection*. For in the present Case, when *Infection* has seized any Part of a Country, much greater Care ought to be taken, that no *Seeds* of the *Contagion* be conveyed about, than when the Distemper is at a great Distance; because a *Bale of Goods*, which shall have imbibed the *Contagious Aura* when packt up in *Turkey*, or any remote Parts; yet, when unpackt here, may chance to meet with so healthful a Temperament of our Air, that it shall not do much hurt. But when the Air of any one of our Towns shall be so corrupted, as to spread and maintain the *Pestilence* in it, there will be little reason to believe, that the Air of the rest of the Country is in a much better State.

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For the same Reason *Quarentines* should more strictly be enjoined, when the *Plague* is in a bordering Kingdom, than when it is more remote.

I have gone through the chief Branches of *Preservation* against the *Plague*. And shall only add, that if the *Burning of Goods*, which has been proposed, be thought any Way *offensive* or *inconvenient*, The *Burying* of them six Feet, or more, under Ground may answer the Purpose as well.

What has been said of the *Nature of Contagion*, upon which the foregoing Directions are grounded, may also be of Use towards establishing a better Method of *Cure*, than *Authors* have commonly taught: But to engage in this is beyond the present Design.

FINIS.

LXVII

# FOOTNOTES:

- 1. Vid. Hippocrat. Epidem. lib. 3.
- 2. Galen, de Temperament, lib. 1. cap. 4. & Comment. in Epid. 1. 3.
- 3. Vid. J. Leon. Histor. Afric. lib. 1.
- 4. Vid. Caium de Febre Ephemera Britannica.
- 5. Vid. Rondinelli Contagio in Firenze, & Summonte Histor. di Napoli.
- <u>6</u>. Lord Verulam's History of Henry VII.
- <u>7</u>. Vide Hodges de Peste.
- 8. Vid. Histor. Fiorent. di Matteo Villani.
- 9. Vid. Bellini de Febrib.
- <u>10</u>. Boccaccio Decameron. Giornat. prim.
- 11. Diemerbroeck de Peste, L. 1. C. 4.
- <u>12</u>. Hodges de Peste.
- 13. Vid. Directions for the Cure of the Plague, by the College of Physicians; and Orders by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, published 1665.
- <u>14</u>. Discourse upon the Air, by *Tho. Cook.*
- 15. Vid. The shutting up of Houses soberly debated. Anno, 1665.
- 16. Camden. Annal. Regin. Elizab.
- 17. Lord Verulam, Natural History, Cent. 10. Num. 914.
- 18. Galen. de Theriac. cap. 16.
- 19. Hodges de Peste, pag. 24.
- <u>20</u>. Rhazes de re Medica, lib. 10. c. 16.
- <u>21</u>. Notitia Ecclesiæ Diniensis.

#### Transcriber's Notes.

This Book is 300 years old and the advice given has been superceded by more modern methods and is of historical value only.