

**THE MOLOKAI SETTLEMENT  
(ILLUSTRATED), TERRITORY OF  
HAWAII, VILLAGES  
KALAUAPA AND KALAWAO**

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Hawaii Board of Health

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**HAWAII BOARD OF HEALTH**

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HAWAII, VILLAGES  
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# THE MOLOKAI SETTLEMENT

(ILLUSTRATED)

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

VILLAGES

**KALAUPAPA AND KALAWAO**



ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TERRITORY OF  
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## The Molokai Settlement.

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Honolulu, Hawaii, January 1st, 1907.

This pamphlet is issued by the Board of Health of the Territory of Hawaii, that, through its illustrations and information, those interested, both at home and abroad, may have an accurate idea of the Molokai Leper Settlement, which is known the world over and concerning which so much has been written, often erroneously.

Few visitors are allowed within the Settlement, none from motives of curiosity, for the place is inaccessible, communication at times difficult or impossible, steamer stay short, and accommodations limited.

Leprosy in itself is a tragic disease, more notably from the awful social ostracism and shunning exercised against the leper elsewhere than in Hawaii, where the disease is treated and regulated more rationally and public protection is secured in the most humane manner. The separation, which the disease causes in families and among friends, is the most distressing feature, but that distress wears away.

The lepers enjoy many of the courtesies and attentions common among friends. The writer esteems highly some of these people with whom he has become well acquainted.

It is a high honor to be accorded the friendship of the devoted Mother Superior and Sisters of the Order of St. Francis, as well as that of the Clergy and Brothers, all of whom serve the inmates of the Settlement.

The Superintendent not only performs his duties as administrator, but takes a fatherly interest in the personal affairs of his wards, and unceasingly endeavors to make life as bright as possible.

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# THE MALDEN ANNALS

A variety of entertainments and luaus (feasts) occur from time to time. Races are run, field sports are enjoyed, shooting clubs test their skill at the butts and chess tournaments have disclosed, in a blind lawyer, one of the most remarkable chess players ever known.

On a visit to the Settlement in July, 1906, it was my privilege, with the Superintendent, to enjoy a special entertainment given in our honor, the like of which has probably never before been witnessed.

Twenty-four girls, inmates of the Bishop Home for Girls, gathered in its assembly hall and presented a flag drill, with accompanying figure marching and singing. The pianist was a leper girl. The girls were all dressed in white, each carried an American flag, and executed all figures with precision and without a mistake, while the singing was most creditable. Some faces were pretty, some showed their affliction, but all were attractive to the Superintendent and myself.

When the Settlement is represented as a place of confinement, abandoned hope, a chamber of horrors, the impression is very incorrect. A large correspondence with the outside world is carried on, all letters, however, being disinfected.

Persons not diseased may, from time to time, take short leaves of absence from the Settlement.

The Settlement contains ten square miles, an area larger than the ordinary city man avails himself of.

It has been the aim of the present President of the Board of Health to improve the appearance of the Settlement by erecting a higher class and more attractive style of buildings, that the villages may compare favorably, if not excel, those having a healthy population of like numbers. In the end economy, as well as increased comfort, will result, and the inmates be made more hopeful and ambitious.

We often see in the public press notices of cures of leprosy. Reputable scientific men are eager to announce a "cure" when only an improvement or temporary arrest of the disease has taken place. Were the Board of Health to pursue such a course "cures" would be rather frequently announced, incorrectly, however, for



the disease often lies quiescent and unprogressive for quite a time and then renews its progress.

Dr. Rost of Rangoon, Burmah, was in 1903 quite sure he had discovered a cure, which attracted wide attention and was tried on a great number of cases, but early in 1906 he was obliged to admit failures.

Dr. Wilkinson of Manila, thought a six months' longer treatment with X-Rays would have cured certain lepers. We prefer to await further developments in the above experiment as we fear damage from X-Rays. We, however, have under consideration another treatment by rays less severe in their effect.

The Chaulmoogra Oil treatment practiced by Dr. Dyer in Louisiana we have used for a long time and are employing that treatment continuously. Specifics from Dr. Britton of Paris were unsuccessfully used. Experiments are being made with baths of a solution prepared from the eucalyptus. This treatment seems to be accomplishing much good and is received very willingly by the patients generally.

Other efforts are being quietly made by competent scientific practitioners to solve the problem. Should any reliable discovery be made it will be promptly be made public to the medical world.

There is a class of fakirs who are trying to make money by claiming they have secret remedies for the disease. Patent blood remedies and secret concoctions are continually urged on the Board by persons who never saw and would not know a leper.

Our custom is to ask for references and inform them that, if they will name the ingredients of their remedies we will submit them to competent authorities and consider their use. Invariably they refuse. We can safely conclude they are adventurers seeking only to take a chance at making money.

In January eleven persons will be brought to the Kalihi Receiving Station at Honolulu for re-examination by the Board of Medical Examiners, as their cases are in doubt. I have examined each one physically and conversed with them. If any are found free from the disease I doubt if a single one will accept liberty, but will anxiously request being returned to the Settlement where

all their interests and affections lie. As their services are needed on Molokai their wishes will be respected.

The Operating and Laboratory rooms at the New Dispensary are being completely furnished with the latest and highest class equipment, unexcelled by the operating equipment of any hospital in the Territory. If built the new General Hospital will be similarly furnished.

Minor surgical operations afford great relief and are constantly performed. Where a few years ago patients would not submit, they are anxious to receive and request such treatment.

Dr. W. J. Goodhue deserves special mention for his remarkable work and devotion. His report, in the regular report of the Board of Health for the period ending December 31st, 1906, contains important information as to the treatment of leprosy.

It is time to cease crying "Unclean, Unclean" to the lepers and refrain from painting dark pictures for literary or sensational effect, thus making avoidance and segregation more cruel than necessary.

Intelligent, rational and kindly methods prevail in Hawaii, so the mental distress of the afflicted ones is greatly relieved.

With the great United States Leprosy Investigation Station established at the Settlement with its skilled staff and distinguished scientists giving their aid, and the active efforts of the physicians of the Board of Health and their advisers, the Molokai Settlement will become noted throughout the world. There should be concentrated every effort to solve the mystery of this disease.

[Excerpt from Report of June 30th, 1906.]

## LEPROSY.

### ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND ADMINISTRATION.

The experience of the Hawaiian race has varied little from that of other aboriginal races. Lacking knowledge of the diseases of civilization, or their control or remedies, this race has suffered accordingly, and become susceptible to certain infections to an

infinitely greater degree than other races dwelling among them.

Between forty and fifty years ago the Hawaiians found numbers of their race affected by a disease the most tragic, socially, that ever afflicted mankind, leprosy, which was undoubtedly brought from the Orient, and was designated by the natives as the "Chinese Sickness."

On January 6th, 1866, was established one of the most remarkable institutions in existence: the Leper Settlement on the Island of Molokai. The village is situated on a tongue of land, of some 6,348 acres, that juts into the sea, which surrounds three sides, and, on the remaining side, perpendicular cliffs, from two to four thousand feet in height, form a natural and practically impassable barrier to exit by land. Communication by sea is limited to one steamer call per week from which no person, the Superintendent excepted, is allowed to land, and on which officials only may depart, except by special permit of the Board of Health. The scenery is notable, impressive and rarely equaled.

The growth of this institution has been gradual in scope and administration. Its record has been one of ever-increasing care and kindness, as well as the carrying out of its mission of protection to the general population of the Islands.

In whatever measure severity may, at times in the past, have been used in apprehending lepers, the process of law is now rarely used, for officials prefer to deal with the afflicted ones not as outcasts of society, but as deserving of the same consideration, care and sympathy accorded to persons suffering from other incurable and lingering diseases.

From Government Physicians, covering nearly every district of the Islands, and other sources, information is lodged with the Board of Health that a certain person has, or is suspected of having, leprosy.

As soon as transportation can be secured the President of the Board of Health usually sends a written invitation, either direct or through the Government Physician, to the person suspected, to call at his office or report at the Receiving Station in Honolulu, stating all expenses will be paid, and if found free from the disease the patient will be promptly returned home. If there is any