

## CANTONMENT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

BY MAJOR A. E. RICHMOND, O.B.E.

*Royal Army Medical Corps.*

AN officer of the R.A.M.C. or I.M.S., serving in India, is liable at any time in the course of a tour of duty in that country to find himself called upon to carry out the duties of a Health or Assistant Health Officer in a cantonment, either permanently during his stay in the station concerned, or temporarily, in the absence on leave, or from some other cause, of the official holder of the appointment.

The proper performance of such duties involves a knowledge of cantonment health administration with special reference to its legal aspect, and it is the object of the writer, while not laying claim to putting forward anything original in his article, to bring to notice as concisely and clearly as he can points of importance in regard to the matter alluded to, in the hope that some measure of assistance will, perhaps, be afforded to some of those readers who may at some future date be called upon to assume the responsibilities of a cantonment Health, or Assistant Health Officer. Even if no such help is given, the author hopes that the article, though ponderous in many parts on account of the legal aspect of the subject with which it deals, will serve to show to a material extent the importance of the duties assigned to medical officers holding appointments of the nature mentioned.

Before settling down to a consideration of the subject in hand, it is as well that readers should remember that there is a wide gulf between the conditions existent in India fifteen years ago, or less, and those found there to-day, and that the average present-day Indian, a lover of litigation and perhaps impatient of anything savouring of the British Raj, will endeavour to escape any obligation placed upon him, other than in a strictly lawful manner, with the result that a Health or Assistant Health Officer may find himself haled into court, if any act of his, performed probably with the best will in the world, has not been accompanied by attention to any legal formalities that may have been necessary.

The population of a cantonment varies, I suppose in most cases, from ten to twenty-eight thousand souls, of which often a quarter only comprises troops, the remaining three-quarters consisting of civilian Indians of every kind of caste and every degree of wealth and poverty, who obtain their livelihood out of the needs of the soldiery and of their fellow residents. The health of this conglomeration of persons depends in great degree on the energy, foresight, and tact of those health authorities with whose responsibilities this article mainly deals.

The dictionary definition of the word "cantonment" is "quarters for troops," and the majority of cantonments in India date from the days of

the East India Company. For military and health reasons they were placed outside the cities concerned, though at no great distance from them, and in many cases there is practically direct continuity between the two. The influence exerted on the health of a cantonment by the neighbouring city is, naturally, in almost direct proportion to their proximity.

There is no doubt that the size of the large civilian element of the cantonment populations has grown enormously as time has passed, not only on account of the fertility of the average Indian lady, but also owing to the immigration of people who find life pleasanter and less toilsome in a well-ordered cantonment than in an overcrowded Indian city, with its occasional outbreaks of turbulence and other disorders, and its periodical epidemics of such terror-striking diseases as smallpox, cholera and plague.

The administration of a cantonment is normally in the hands of what is known as the Cantonment Board, the composition of which is usually as follows :—

- (a) The Cantonment Commanding Officer.
- (b) The Health Officer.
- (c) The Executive Engineer.
- (d) Such military officers, not exceeding four in number, as may be nominated by the Commanding Officer.
- (e) A magistrate of the first class nominated by the District Magistrate.
- (f) Civilian members elected under the Cantonments Act and equal in number to those appointed under clauses (b) to (e).

As regards cantonments situated within the limits of a presidency town, in Baluchistan, or in the North-West Frontier Province, certain modifications in the composition of their boards are authorized by the Cantonments Act, this also being the case in respect of those having a population of under 2,500 persons.

These variations in constitution are designed to meet special local conditions not met with in cantonments in general, and it is not proposed to discuss them in further detail.

Apart from the Board referred to there is, in all cases, an official known as the Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Government and whose post is a whole or part-time one, according to the size of the cantonment concerned.

He is responsible to the Board for seeing that its instructions are carried out and that the provisions of the Cantonments Act are complied with, for exercising a general supervision over the cantonment employees and their work, and over the cantonment in general, and for the performance of numerous other duties. In addition, though not a member of the Board, he acts as its secretary and has various obligations in that connexion.

It will be realized that the duties of the Executive Officer are multifarious and onerous, and it is with him that the Health or Assistant Health Officer is sure to have many dealings. A spirit of friendly co-operation

between these health officials and the Executive Officer necessarily spells much benefit to the cantonment concerned.

In 1924, with a view to consolidating and amending the law relating to the administration of cantonments, the Cantonments Act was passed and is applicable to the whole of British India, including Baluchistan. This very important measure is a long one of some seventeen chapters, comprising 292 sections, and a working knowledge of its provisions is very essential to anyone who is called upon to deal with the direction of a cantonment from a health or other point of view. On this account the author considers it desirable to devote most of his attention in the course of this article to a consideration of the matters, referred to in the Act, which are germane to the subject and, with a view to a clearer conception of these being obtained, they are placed under separate and reasonably appropriate headings, together with references in brackets, where necessary, indicating the section or sections of the Act applicable.

Finally, to conclude what one might term a general survey of the subject of cantonment administration, it is as well to mention that the money necessary for the normal municipal activities of a Cantonment Board is found from the Cantonment Fund, and that this has numerous sources such as rates, taxes, etc., from which it gains financial nourishment.

Let us now turn our attention to the more strictly health aspect of the direction of a cantonment.

#### I.—THE DUTIES OF THE HEALTH AND ASSISTANT HEALTH OFFICER.

The Health Officer is, normally, the senior military medical officer in the station, and his duties are defined in the Cantonments Act (s. 129).

He is responsible for exercising a general sanitary supervision over the whole cantonment, and must submit monthly to the Cantonment Authority a report as to the sanitary condition of the area under his surveillance.

The Assistant Health Officer is selected from one of the military medical officers doing duty in the station, and should, preferably, have had previous experience in hygiene and be possessed of a diploma of public health. He frequently combines the duties of Assistant Health Officer and Medical Officer in charge of the Cantonment Hospital, referred to later.

His responsibilities are such as are allotted to him by the Health Officer, subject to the control of the Cantonment Authority (s. 129).

It will be noted from the foregoing that the obligations of the two health officials mentioned are stated only in very general terms, but it should be borne in mind that, throughout the Act, reference is made in numerous places to certain specific duties which will be alluded to under the appropriate headings.

## II.—WATER SUPPLIES.

In every cantonment where a sufficient supply of pure water for domestic use does not already exist, it is the responsibility of the Cantonment Authority concerned to provide or arrange for such a supply, and it is laid down that it must, as far as possible, be continuous throughout the year and be at all times pure and fit for human consumption (s. 217).

The Cantonment Authority directly controls any sources of water, within or without the cantonment, used for the benefit of the inhabitants, except such sources as are under the jurisdiction of the Military Works Services or the Public Works Department, or are under the direction of or owned by some private person.

In the latter case the Authority is empowered under the Act, by notice in writing, to ensure that the source is kept free from contamination and in good order, and should the individual concerned not take the necessary steps and the water be not fit for drinking, its use for such a purpose may be prohibited by the Board. In the case of a well, however, the owner may, at his own request, be absolved of responsibility in the matter, the onus of its proper care and maintenance falling upon the shoulders of the Cantonment Authority (ss. 218 and 219).

In the event of a building not being provided with a water supply, adequate for the needs of those in residence or employed in it, the owner, lessee, or occupier can be compelled by the Cantonment Board to obtain a sufficiency of good water from the public source and to provide the necessary communication pipes (s. 221).

The Board has, under the Act, wide powers in regard to the supply of water and is entitled, in this connexion, to carry pipes through, across, over or under any road, street, land or building, or up the side of any structure within or without the cantonment boundary, while, in addition, it may do anything necessary to keep such pipes in proper repair, provided that no nuisance, in excess of what is really necessary, is caused in the execution of the work, and that compensation is paid, should damage to property result (s. 227).

If the Cantonment Authority is of opinion that the water in any well, tank, or other place is likely to spread disease, it may, by public notice, prohibit its removal or use for drinking purposes and, by notice in writing, require any person who has control of such a supply to prevent the public from having access to it, while it may in addition take any other steps considered expedient to prevent the outbreak or spread of such a disease (s. 169).

Under the same section, in the event of a cantonment being threatened by an outbreak of any infectious or contagious disease, the Health Officer or any person authorized by him may, without notice, at any time inspect and disinfect any source of water supply, and may further put in force any measures he thinks fit to ensure the purity of the water or to prevent its use for drinking purposes.

It would not appear necessary to offer any detailed comment on the provisions of the Act referred to dealing with cantonment water supplies, and it suffices to say that they give the Cantonment Authority full control in this very important matter within the cantonment, and also all jurisdiction outside it, necessary for the prevention of water-borne disease, and that the special powers given to the Health Officer in a threatened epidemic of an infectious malady are of particular significance as far as we are concerned.

### III.—CONSERVANCY AND SANITATION.

It will be realized that, in any ordinary cantonment, lack of funds and other circumstances do not permit of anything in the nature of a water-carriage system of sewage disposal, and reliance has accordingly to be placed on other and cruder methods.

A daily house-to-house collection of filth and refuse is also impossible in most places, with the result that what we may describe as the "group system" of conservancy has to be depended upon. Under such a scheme refuse dumps, suitably constructed, and latrines and urinals together with destructors, are placed throughout the cantonment, in the most convenient situations as regards the groups of houses, bungalows, and other buildings they are intended to serve. These public latrines and urinals are used by the bulk of the cantonment population, only the bungalows and larger Indian houses having private arrangements of this nature; the filth from those places, with their own conveniences, is carried daily to the nearest group latrine for incineration in the destructor attached to it.

Household refuse is carried each day to the nearest dump, and from these it is collected by small motor lorries or ordinary carts, the former type of conveyance being much the more desirable from both an economic and sanitary point of view.

The drains existing in a cantonment are usually of an open type and intended for the disposal of storm and rain water, but sullage water, which it is not easy to deal with satisfactorily, frequently gains entry to them and may cause trouble if the channels are not kept well flushed and clean; similarly, excremental matter will of a certainty find its way into the drains from time to time, a most undesirable state of affairs, and one which requires to be guarded against by the punishment of those concerned.

It is the duty of the Cantonment Authority to keep all public latrines and urinals in proper order and to provide the necessary conservancy staff (s. 130); it may, too, with the consent of the occupier, or without his concurrence where he fails to make satisfactory conservancy arrangements, undertake the scavenging of any building or land for such a period as it thinks fit on any terms it deems necessary (s. 131).

The obligation of providing public receptacles in suitable situations for the temporary reception of household refuse, carcasses of dead animals and the like, lies with the Cantonment Authority, as also the responsibility for

its proper disposal (s. 132), while the Act lays down specifically that the Executive Officer may, by written notice, require the lessee or occupier of any land or building to close a cesspool which is productive of nuisance, keep any rubbish or sewage depository in a clean condition, prevent the water of any private latrine, urinal, or bathroom from entering any water-course or drain not intended for the purpose, or from flowing on to a street or public place, and to collect for removal by the conservancy establishment any offensive matter or refuse which such an individual has allowed to accumulate. The official mentioned may also compel any person to desist from making or altering any drain leading into a public channel, and to cleanse, modify, or put in order, as necessity dictates, any drain of which he is in control (s. 135).

It is a circumstance of some considerable moment that when any well, tank, cistern, reservoir, receptacle, or other place in the cantonment where water is stored or accumulates is creating a nuisance, or when in the opinion of the Health or Assistant Health Officer a place of this kind is dangerous on account of the presence of mosquito breeding, or of the likelihood of its occurrence, the Cantonment Authority may enforce any filling up, closure or drainage that may be requisite (s. 134).

In the hands of the Board lie important powers in regard to enforcing the provision, by an owner or lessee of a building or land, of any latrine, urinal, cesspool, dust-bin or other rubbish or sewage receptacles which are required, while any employer of more than ten workmen, and every person controlling a market, school, theatre, or other place of public resort may be called upon to provide such sanitary conveniences and personnel as the Cantonment Authority deems adequate to the purpose (ss. 135 and 136).

Finally, the Board is given under the Act the means to ensure that any private latrines or urinals are constructed or altered according to the approved official plan, and are not taken into use until they have been passed as suitable by the Health or Assistant Health Officer, that a private convenience of the nature referred to, which constitutes a nuisance is closed, and that the owner or person in control of any drain in the cantonment provides such a covering for it as may be considered necessary.

Here, again, the Cantonment Authority is given practically unlimited powers, and the uninitiated will wonder why it is that the average cantonment is not a model of cleanliness, even though the system of conservancy and sanitation is not exactly up to date. They must continue to speculate until we look further into the matter later on in the course of this article.

#### IV.—BUILDINGS.

The significance of any provisions of the Cantonments Act dealing with the matter of buildings and housing will be clear to all those who have had any experience of the average Indian cantonment, with its over-large proportion of badly built ill-ventilated habitations. A large part of Chapter XI

of the measure referred to has regard to this important subject, and probably no section is of greater moment than that dealing with congested buildings. Here it is laid down that, when it appears that any block of buildings in a cantonment is in an unhealthy condition, by reason of their crowding together, narrowness of the street, want of proper drainage or ventilation, or the impracticability of cleansing them, the Cantonment Authority may have them inspected by a committee consisting of the Health Officer, the Civil Surgeon, the Executive Engineer, and two non-official members of the Board, and may take any action indicated as necessary by the Committee's report in regard to the removal of all or any of the buildings, provided that due compensation is paid to the owners concerned (s. 138).

The Board also has the right to deal with the overcrowding of buildings by causing the individuals responsible to reduce the occupants to the maximum allowable (s. 139).

Owners of buildings, so badly constructed or dilapidated as to be in an insanitary state, may be compelled to execute any repairs, or carry out any modifications that may be requisite for the purpose of removing the defects (s. 140), while the Executive Officer may require the owner, lessee, or occupier of any building or land in the cantonment which appears to him to be in an insanitary condition to put the matter right within twenty-four hours. A repetition of the offence within three months renders the person responsible liable to a fine of not more than 200 rupees (s. 141).

Turning now to the matter of buildings or parts of them intended for or used as human dwellings, and which are unfit for habitation, we find that the Cantonment Authority may have a notice posted on such places, prohibiting the owners or occupiers concerned from applying them to the purpose alluded to, or allowing them to be so used until rendered satisfactory (s. 142).

The Board is given very definite control over the erection or re-erection of buildings and their alteration, and no work of this nature may be completed without official sanction. This has special reference to modifications of places by which, though not intended for the purpose, they may be converted into human dwellings, and, in an opposite sense, to changes by which erections intended for human habitations are converted into stables, cowsheds and similar types of shelters; also to cases where alterations involve an increase or decrease in the heights of buildings, or the reduction of floor or cubic spaces below any standards laid down by any bye-law made under the Act (s. 179).

Plans of new buildings or changes in existing ones have to be submitted for the approval of the Board, and the latter may refuse to sanction the work, or alternatively may give its approval, subject to certain conditions being complied with, these usually having respect to such matters as free passage way in front of, and space about a building, its ventilation and the

cubic capacity of its rooms, and the provision of latrines, urinals, drains, cesspools, or other filth receptacles (s. 181).

The Cantonment Authority is empowered to make bye-laws in regard to housing, laying down, among other conditions, the type or description of buildings which may or may not be erected, or re-erected, and the minimum cubic capacity of any rooms (s. 186), and may order the demolition, or modification as necessary, of any building put up or altered without the necessary official approval of the plans (s. 185).

As regards drainage and sewer connections, the Board may compel the owner or lessee of any building or land at his own expense to put up and keep in good condition troughs, pipes, and the like for carrying away rain-water, or for discharging it, and to establish or maintain any other connexion or communication between the building or land and a sewer or drain, while in addition such an individual may be required, for purposes of efficient drainage, to pave in a satisfactory fashion any courtyard, alley, or passage between two or more buildings, and to keep the paving in proper repair (s. 189).

When we examine the powers of the authority concerned in relation to buildings just detailed, it is clear that the authority can deal, within reason, with any defective housing conditions existent, but, unfortunately, progress in this direction must of necessity be very gradual. The rectification of such conditions, inasmuch as they have frequently been present over a considerable period of time, usually involves much expense on account of compensation and other things, the bulk of which falls on cantonment funds, often not capable of shouldering the burden; while in a replanning scheme of any magnitude the difficulties of housing inhabitants, evicted to allow of the carrying out of the work, will on many occasions be well-nigh insuperable.

Some readers have probably been faced with obstacles of this nature in connection with, in particular, the abolition of regimental bazaars. The latter, occupied by shopkeepers, followers, etc., are in many instances situated within the regimental lines of the units they are connected with, and are a source of continual anxiety to the health authorities, owing to their liability to form foci of infection in regard to the spread of disease among the surrounding troops. Such bazaars within the lines should be cleared away whenever possible, and it should be borne in mind that grants for the purpose from the Government may possibly be obtained, if application is made and full and sufficient reason is given as regards the necessity for the proposed step.

Finally, and a point of some importance, is the fact that in many cantonments in past years building has not kept pace with the increase in population due to the natural fertility of the Indian and immigration, and consequently there is an already present marked degree of overcrowding which makes the remedying of defective housing conditions increasingly difficult.



## V.—PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS OR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Turning now to a consideration of this extraordinarily important side of cantonment health administration, we find in the first place that it is very clearly laid down under the Act that any person in charge of or in attendance upon, whether as a medical practitioner or otherwise, an individual in the cantonment whom he knows or has reason to believe to be suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, is responsible for giving information on the matter to the Cantonment Board, and is liable to a fine of not more than 100 rupees if he fails to do so or furnishes false information (s. 150).

In the event of a cantonment being visited or threatened by an outbreak of infectious disease, the Officer Commanding the district is given very wide powers, in that he may, with the previous sanction of the Local Government, take such special measures, or make such temporary regulations as he thinks necessary to prevent the outbreak or spread of the trouble. In urgent circumstances he may act without the approval of the Local Government, provided he forwards a report on the subject to that body, and it is of importance to note that any individual committing a breach of any temporary regulations made in this way is deemed to have offended under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, and to be liable to punishment accordingly (s. 151).

It is within the powers of the Cantonment Authority, on the advice of the Health Officer, to have carried out any necessary disinfection or cleansing in connection with the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, previous notice in writing being given to the owner or occupier concerned, who must see that the requisite steps are taken, unless poverty or other cause prevents him from complying, in which case the Board may have the work carried out at the public expense (s. 161).

In a similar manner the owner of any shed or hut may be compelled to destroy it if circumstances necessitate such a course of action, or, failing that, the Cantonment Authority may have it done away with, compensation in either event being payable by the Authority referred to. Temporary shelter or house accommodation must be provided by the Board for the members of any family dislodged by reason of the disinfection, cleansing, or destruction of their habitation (ss. 162 and 163).

A regulation is made in the Cantonments Act by which no building or part of one may be let if anyone has suffered there from infectious or contagious disease within the preceding six weeks, unless the place has been properly disinfected. It is of some moment to note that under the section of the Act dealing with this point it is specifically stated that keepers of hotels, lodging houses, and sarais are considered to let to any guest the part of the building in which he resides (s. 164).

Anyone who, while suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, uses a public conveyance, is compelled to take proper precautions against the communication of the infection to others, by notifying the owner or

driver of the vehicle as to such use, while in addition the Executive Officer must be informed of the number of the conveyance and the particulars of the infectious individual. Similar action must be taken by anybody who uses a public vehicle for the carrying of anyone, alive or dead, suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.

The driver of a public carriage in which an infectious person or corpse has been taken is also responsible for reporting the fact to the Executive Officer, and it is this officer's duty to see that the vehicle is disinfected and not brought into use until this has been completed (ss. 157, 158, 159).

A fine of not more than 100 rupees is the penalty incurred for contravention of the sections of the Cantonment Act just referred to.

With respect to this matter of the conveyance of infectious persons in public carriages, it should be remembered that no driver of such a vehicle is bound to convey individuals suffering from infectious or contagious diseases, unless payment sufficient to cover any loss or expense which would ordinarily be incurred in the disinfection of the carriage is made in addition to the ordinary charge (s. 160).

Naturally, in the prevention of infectious disease, disinfection plays a highly important part, and cantonments authorities are called upon under the provisions of the Act to provide proper places for the purpose, together with the requisite attendants and apparatus, and must cause conveyances, clothing, or other articles brought with this object in view to be dealt with accordingly, either free of charge or on the payment of such fees as they may fix.

It is also within the power of the Cantonment Authority to forbid washing of infected articles at any but specially designated places.

The President of the Board or, where there is no Board, the Commanding Officer of the cantonment, has authority to direct the destruction of any clothing, bedding, or other articles likely to retain infection, and may cause such compensation as he thinks fit to be given (s. 166), while nobody may give, lend, sell, or otherwise dispose of to another person any article which he has reason to believe may have become infected and is likely to be used in or taken into a cantonment (s. 165).

It is now advisable that we should turn our attention to a consideration of the powers possessed by the Cantonment Board in regard to the control of food and water supplies on the outbreak, threatened or actual, of infectious disease.

If a medical practitioner attributes such an occurrence to milk supplied by a dairyman, and provided he certifies this as his opinion in writing, the Executive Officer is at liberty to call upon the milk seller concerned to furnish a list of all his customers, with a view to information being obtained as to the persons to whom the milk has been retailed (s. 152), while the Health Officer is at liberty to take charge of any milk, clothes, or other articles in possession of any implicated dairyman, and to have them submitted to any process of disinfection considered necessary, it being the

responsibility of the Cantonment Authority to pay such compensation for any loss occasioned thereby as may seem to it to be reasonable (s. 156).

Apart from its powers in relation to the milk supply referred to previously, the Board may by public notice restrict in any manner considered necessary, or prohibit for such a period as circumstances make essential, the sale or preparation of any article of food or drink for human consumption, or the flesh of any animals (s. 168). It has also very wide powers in regard to the prohibition of the use of water from any specified source, the disinfection of wells, and the taking of any other steps considered expedient in connexion with the water supply, should it be of opinion that such supply, if used for drinking, is likely to engender or cause the spread of *any* disease (s. 169), while in this section just referred to it is also specifically laid down that the Health Officer, or any person authorized by him may, in an outbreak of infectious disease or a threatened outbreak, without notice and at any time, inspect and disinfect any well, tank, or other source of water, or carry out any measures he thinks fit to ensure the purity of the supply or to prevent its use for drinking purposes.

The Cantonment Act lays down that a fine not exceeding 100 rupees may be inflicted on any individual who, while suffering from an infectious disease or in circumstances in which he is likely to spread such a disease, makes, carries, or offers for sale any article of food or drink, or any medicine or drug for human consumption; or any article of clothing or bedding for personal use or wear, or takes part in such an act, or in the washing or carrying of clothes (s. 167).

In the event of the Health Officer certifying it as necessary with a view to preventing the spread of infectious disease, the Executive Officer may direct any washerman to provide him with a list giving the names and addresses of all owners of clothes and other articles which he has washed during the preceding six weeks (s. 153); he may also, on report from the Health Officer that infectious or contagious disease is likely to be spread by the washing of clothes in any place, or by any process employed by a laundryman, prohibit such washing or process for as long as circumstances render necessary (s. 155).

The Health Officer is empowered under the Act to take charge of any clothes or other articles in the possession of a washerman who has been called upon under Section 153 previously mentioned, and may have them subjected to any disinfecting process considered essential, responsibility for the payment of any compensation for loss or damage occasioned thereby falling on the shoulders of the Cantonment Authority, as in the case of clothes or other articles taken from dairymen under similar circumstances (s. 156).

The disposal of the corpses of those who have died of infectious diseases receives special attention in the provisions of the Cantonments Act, and we find that the Executive Officer may, by notice in writing, require any individual having charge of such a corpse to convey it to a mortuary to be

disposed of in accordance with the law, or to prohibit the removal of any such dead body from the place where death occurred, except for the purpose of burial, or burning, or conveyance to a mortuary (s. 170).

Certain other powers of some moment lie to the hands of the Health Officer or the Medical Officer in charge of the Cantonment Hospital. Should either of the officials referred to believe any person in the cantonment to be suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, he may call upon the suspected individual by written notice to attend at the hospital or dispensary for examination at a specified time and not to quit it without permission. On the arrival of the individual the Medical Officer may examine him for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the presence or not of a disease of the nature alluded to.

Should, however, the attendance of such a person at the hospital or dispensary be likely to prove unnecessary or inexpedient, the examination may be carried out at his own residence, while in the event of an individual examined being found to be suffering from an infectious or contagious malady, the Health Officer or the Medical Officer in charge of the Cantonment Hospital may detain him until he is free from infection. Should such detention not be requisite or expedient, the Health Officer or Medical Officer referred to may discharge the person concerned and take such measures or give such directions as he may consider necessary (s. 175).

If the Health Officer or Medical Officer in charge of the Cantonment Hospital reports in writing to the Commanding Officer of the cantonment that any person having received a notice under Section 175 has omitted or refused to attend at the hospital, or dispensary, or has left it without permission, or has failed to comply with any directions given under the same section, the Commanding Officer may by an order in writing instruct such an individual to leave the cantonment within twenty-four hours and not to return to it without his written permission. A person so expelled is forbidden to enter any other cantonment (s. 176) without the express permission of its Commanding Officer.

No comments on the provisions of the Act in regard to the prevention of infectious and contagious disease appear requisite, inasmuch as these appear to be all-embracing and to give ample powers to those requiring them to deal with epidemic maladies.

Of particular importance is the fact that the District Commander may take any special measures considered necessary, and that the term "threatened epidemic of infectious disease" is capable of wide interpretation.

*(To be continued.)*

---