Laboratory Report.—The direct smear from the pus showed large numbers of Gram-negative cocci and diplococci. Morphologically and culturally the organism resembled *M. catarrhalis* and this was confirmed by the fact that it did not ferment carbohydrates. A throat swab showed the same organism to be present in large numbers. The organism was not agglutinated by the patient's serum.

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**Travel.**

**A VISIT TO LOBITO.**

**By Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. O'T. Dickinson, O.B.E.,**

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On the journey between Mauritius and the United Kingdom, one of the occasional ports of call for Union-Castle intermediate ships is Lobito, just north of Benguela, in Portuguese West Africa (Angola). As this part is probably very little known, and as the writer has visited it on three occasions since 1924, it is thought that a short account of the locality might prove of interest to officers of the Corps. Lobito lies in latitude 12° S. and longitude 14° E. It has a magnificent natural harbour about 2½ miles long and over one mile in width. The soundings show from over 70 feet in the bay to 35 feet at the quay-side. It will thus be seen that a large number of big ships can be accommodated in the harbour.

The importance of this port lies in the fact that the new line of railway (about 800 odd miles), opened formally in July, 1931, right across Portuguese West Africa, establishes connection with the rich copper-bearing country round Katanga (Belgian Congo), the tin and other mining districts of Northern Rhodesia, and also with Southern Rhodesia, and so on to Beira in Portuguese East Africa. Through trains now run from Lobito to Beira. The Katanga-Lobito route, as compared with the Katanga-Beira route, saves 600 miles of rail transport, and about 2,600 miles of sea transport.

Lobito has thus become a very important place commercially, and one can foresee here a great field for British enterprise in the future.

The town of Lobito is built mainly on a sand spit about 2½ miles long and averaging 300 yards wide, and constitutes the main European residential quarter. The houses are of local brick and cement with wide verandahs, and large airy rooms admitting a thorough through draught. The native huts, storehouses and grain stores are mainly inland.

The climate is dry and not very hot, as there is always a good sea breeze. There are no violent storms in the locality, owing to its situation in the
A Visit to Lobito

LOBITO BAY
PORTUGUESE ANGOLA

Sand Spit

Harbour

"Resting"

Harbour Master's Pier

Railway Jetty

Warehouses & Govt. Wharf

Customs

Native Quarter

Approx. Scale.

Soundings in Fathoms

0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 Mile

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S.E. Trade Zone, and its latitude. There is a good cold weather, and according to the local inhabitants two and even three blankets are appreciated at night.

The rainfall is small at Lobito itself, but the surrounding country inland has a plentiful supply.

The water supply is plentiful and fair in quality. It comes from the Catumbela river, is filtered, and piped into the town.

The population is small, under 2,000 in the town, mostly Portuguese, many of whom have been deported for political offences. There are two dozen English people, who are engaged in business pursuits. The officials are, of course, Portuguese. The Governor lives at Benguela, about twenty-five miles away, and he also has a residence at Lobito, which he occupies occasionally. The natives are principally of Bantu descent, and they are docile, and do not appear to be very intelligent.

Servants are easy to get, but are not good. They are paid £1 a month, plus food and clothing.

Food. Fresh supplies such as meat (3d. per pound), fish, milk and butter are cheap and good, but imported groceries are very dear, owing to tariffs (one pound of jam costs 2s 3d.) Owing to excessively high duties, the present cost of a bottle of whiskey is £5! Gin, etc., are correspondingly dear! Portuguese wines are good, and can be obtained cheaply.

Hotels. There are two at present, poor in type, but a new one containing twenty-four bedrooms, with a bathroom to each bedroom, and all the latest conveniences, is being built by the railway authorities.

The bathing is very good and most convenient; people bathe from their own doorsteps almost. It is said that although there are plenty of sharks they do not touch bathers, as there are so many fish in the Bay!

Sports and Games. There is no English Club, owing to the small number of English people, but private tennis courts exist, and constitute the only means of taking exercise. The shooting is excellent and plentiful—buffalo, lion, leopard; elephant and seven different kinds of antelope being obtainable within a fifty kilometres motor drive. The famous sable antelope is a denizen of the local forests.

The chief exports are beeswax, maize, cattle, sugar, hides and skins also copper and other minerals from the Belgian Congo.

Communications are fairly good. Ships of the German African Lines call monthly, also Portuguese and Belgian ships. In future, one Union-Castle ship is to call monthly on the outward voyage. Letters can be mailed home every twelve days.

The town is healthy on the whole. There is some malaria, but owing to the dryness of the soil there are not many mosquitoes. The malaria incidence inland is fairly heavy, and blackwater fever occurs in the country districts. The natives suffer from what appears to be a variety of veldt sore. A certain amount of dysentery occurs, and the jigger flea is said to be the cause of considerable annoyance to the European population.