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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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## UNITED STATES.

### *Maintenance of quarantine against Cuban ports.*

[Department Circular No. 71, 1907. Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, November 30, 1907.

*To national, State, and local quarantine officers, collectors of customs, shipowners and agents, and others concerned:*

Owing to the continued prevalence of yellow fever in certain ports of the island of Cuba, the season of close quarantine will be maintained against Cuban ports until further notice.

GEORGE B. CORTELYOU, *Secretary.*

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

### DENGUE FEVER, AS OBSERVED IN BROWNSVILLE, TEX, AUGUST, 1907.

[By Passed Assistant Surgeons Joseph Goldberger and George W. McCoy.]

The city of Brownsville lies on the left bank of the Rio Grande, about 10 miles from the mouth. It has a population locally estimated to be about 8,000 (6,305 according to the census of 1900), of which a large portion is Mexican.

The city has no public water supply, in consequence of which river water is hauled in water carts and kept in barrels and tanks, and is in very general use for all purposes except by the well-to-do portion of the population, which obtains its drinking water from the rain water of cisterns. These water receptacles serve, of course, as excellent breeding places for the *Stegomyia calopus* and the *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes, both of which were very much in evidence. Although there is no sewerage, the natural drainage into the river is sufficient to rapidly carry off the storm water, so that we observed no stagnant water in gutters or puddles.

The city is a port of entry, but its domestic shipping is insignificant and its foreign practically nil. One railroad enters it from the north, giving it direct communication with Corpus Christi, Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, and a number of small towns. Directly opposite, on the Mexican side of the river and connected with it by ferry, is Matamoros. Through Matamoros, Brownsville has daily rail communication with Monterey, Mexico.

It seems probable that dengue was introduced into Brownsville from Mexico. The first case of which we have knowledge occurred