

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF
SOUTH AFRICA

No. 33

1918

(F)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL

SUBJECT

From

Weston A. Price,
Ohio.

HEALTH: DENTISTS.

Requests assistance in obtaining certain products
from Tristan da Cunha in connection with dental research.

DATE

1932

12th October.

PREVIOUS PAPERS

? Ref. as abqate to Minister.

AD 18/11/32

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS

No.
33 / 1918

number would be gladly received. Of course, if there are other cases of susceptibility to tooth decay they would be of special interest. The record with each sample should include the age, sex, foods routinely eaten with approximate percentage of each kind, number of cavities present, number of cavities filled, past and present health, and any other data which will throw light upon the history of the case.

I am writing to the President of the Cape Province Dental Society asking his assistance and co-operation for aiding your commission if one should be sent.

I am happy to say that practical progress has been made on the control of dental caries so that we can anticipate an improvement by a very simple addition to the nutritional program.

I am enclosing with this three reprints of my research reports which will throw light on the nature of my work.

I have taken the liberty to address you personally not knowing the department to which this communication should be sent and realizing that you will place it in the proper hands.

With deep appreciation for your co-operation in this study of one of the world's most serious health problems,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) Weston A. Price
per R.M.M.

per cent immunity and nearly a hundred per cent susceptibility was often only short distances sometimes just a few hours journey.

Very important additions to our knowledge on the cause and prevention of tooth decay could be provided with very little additional effort on the part of such an expedition by obtaining samples of saliva of about twenty-five cubic centimeters to which would be added about one per cent formalin to prevent bacterial growth. A chemistry of the saliva has been developed to a point that discloses defensive factors sufficiently to indicate whether the individual is immune or susceptible to dental caries. I will gladly furnish containers, however, any small bottle thoroughly washed will answer this purpose. The chewing of a piece of wax or gum will stimulate the flow of saliva.

It will also be very desirable to obtain for chemical analysis cooked penguin and other eggs. These can be boiled hard. Samples of vegetables and cereals would also be helpful. The vegetables can be dried and a few ounces of each the vegetables and grains will be sufficient. It would also be of great assistance if we could have a sample of butter-fat obtained from milk produced on the island, if this is available. This will be analyzed for the level of the vitamins. A five gram sample of butter will be sufficient for a test. Add a few drops of formalin to each sample.

It would be fortunate if the saliva sample could include the most susceptible groups of individuals, namely, children in the growth period between ten and fifteen and cases of advanced pregnancy and lactation. A dozen or two typical cases will be exceedingly valuable. A larger



COPY.

Original with encl.
~~Copy sent to~~ Ministers...
For.....Disposal.....
Minute No...33/1918.....
Date 21 November, 1932.
(Sd.) CLARENDON.

Weston A. Price D.D.S., M.D.
Dental Research Laboratories,
8926 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.
October 12, 1932.

Governor-General,
Union of South Africa,
Cape Town, South Africa.

Honourable Sir,

I am advised through the Department of State at Washington that the British Foreign Office has advised the Embassy at London that your Government has under consideration the dispatching of a small expedition to the Island of Tristan da Cunha. This correspondence has grown out of the fact that the world researches being conducted from my laboratory to throw light upon the cause and prevention of the decay of the teeth have included an effort to obtain certain products from that Island which as you know provides practically complete immunity to dental caries. It is by studying conditions in the few remaining places providing immunity that we can obtain most information and helpfulness in these researches.

My field investigations of the past two summers have taken me to the Alps and plains of Switzerland and this past season I have also gone to the Outer and Inner Hebrides. In each the high Alpine valleys and the Outer Hebrides districts were found providing almost complete immunity to tooth decay. These districts were always beyond the zone of commerce that provides the foods used by modern civilization. Immunity was limited sharply geographically. The difference between nearly a hundred

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GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

PRETORIA.

21 November, 1932.

Sir,
I am directed by the Governor-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th October, with enclosures, regarding your desire to obtain samples of saliva, etc., from the Island of Tristan da Cunha for use in connection with dental research and to inform you that His Excellency has referred your letter to the proper Department of the Union Government for such action as may be possible.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BIRCH REYNARDSON,
CAPT

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Mr. Weston A. Price, D.D.S., M.S.,

Dental Research Laboratories,

8926 Euclid Avenue,

Cleveland, Ohio,

U.S.A.