

TRITTON, Dr

<11.8.1900 - evidence given 10.8.1900>

File 73, p. 68.

68 <Contact with civilized races - Indians, Arabs etc.>

Dr Tritton tells me (last night) that within his (District Medical) Circle there are about 3800 coolies, i.e. up to Highflats, to Mkomanzi and I think Mzumbe, also the coastline.¹ He mentioned two large settlements in this Division, (a) at the Mpambanyoni River, and at Charlie Reynolds' estate. There is an Indian Mission in Durban under Canon Booth, last house in Leopold St.

21.8.1899 - <evidence given 19.8.1899, Saturday>.

File 73, p. 38.

<Contact with civilized races - Europeans.>

38 On Saturday evening 19th inst. had conversation with Dr Tritton, District Medical Officer, Indian Circle, who has been at Mzinto for about 17 years. He said that during the last 3 or 4 years natives have been coming to him with woman complaints from all parts of the Colony. They come from Ixopo Division, from near Maritzburg and near Durban, etc. etc. The chief complaint is that they cannot become pregnant. People also with syphilis and kindred diseases come. About 4 years ago he was successful in causing a woman to become pregnant who had been married some 7 or so years but had never had a child. She then had a fine boy and this news seems to have at once spread in all directions. Dr T. quoted one or two other successful and striking cases. The result is that natives far and near have a deep and growing confidence in him. He is fond of natives. His servants are natives. Says syphilis is getting more and more common amongst natives due to contact with Johannesburg. Does not think a hospital for syphilitic patients would be a success, as people would be afraid to come to it if they had to be there for one or two years before they could be cured. The native name *jovela* is for gonorrhoea whilst Dr T. does not know the name for syphilis either primary, secondary or tertiary.²

Very often women who don't have children are prevented by some trifling obstruction. Dr T. has a woman to attend to his women cases; women are stripped and made to lie down for examination when he is out of the room attending to other work. Says natives pay up well. Considers that a woman who is *hlobonga'd* with spends,

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even though there is no internal connection, and this spending is very enervating, more so than when having internal connection. When parties complain of not having children he prescribes medicines both for man and woman and orders them to keep apart a month or more until they are in a fit state. His native practice appears to take up a good deal of his time and is growing. He seems to think an assistant could not do his work as far as natives are concerned. [See p. 69.]³

21.8.1899

File 73, p. 69.

69 <Contact with civilized races - Indians, Arabs etc.>

I had a conversation with Dr Tritton [vide p. 38]⁴ who says he has heard of only one case in which an Indian had sexual intercourse with a native. A fine Indian man on some Mzinto sugar estate caught a native girl in the cane; he frightened her into allowing him and she bore a girl by him who is said to have wonderfully fine features, Asiatic and African combined. Dr T. has not seen this girl but was told by a young fellow who is now clerk at Verulam (I think he said). There is a great deal of syphilis among the Indians; those who have not been properly cured in India are sent out.

Was on the Commission which, with Sir Walter Wragg as President, sat on Indian Affairs in Natal some five to seven years ago.⁵

Thinks Indians and natives will not have connection with one another because of natural antipathy.

The Indian-Native girl is said to be living somewhere near Ifafa river in this division.

Notes

¹ Stuart goes on to indicate that Tritton was Medical Officer, Indian Circle, in the Umzinto region. Stuart was at this time Acting Magistrate at Umzinto.

² Bryant, Dictionary, p. 281, gives *ujovela* as the equivalent of *izembe*, which, on p. 725, he gives as '... certain disease (really several different diseases), appearing as dysentery, bleeding from bladder, bleeding from the stomach, kidney diseases, culminating sometimes in insanity ... and contracted only by men ...'. Doke and Vilikazi, Dictionary, p. 364, give *ujovela* as 'Internal haemorrhage in men (connected in Native belief with sexual disorders)'.

³ The reference is to Tritton's evidence as given below.

⁴ The reference is to Tritton's evidence as given above.

⁵ The Wragg Commission sat from 1885 to 1887.