

## THE "MESTIZOS" OF KISAR, DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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SCATTERED through the relatively scanty modern literature relating to European colonization of tropical countries are found various references to a Dutch community which has resided for several generations at Kisar, a small island situated some 30 miles northward from Timor, between the parallels of latitude 8° and 9° south of the equator. Professor MacMillan Brown ("The Dutch East," page 204) has woven around this community a romantic tale of settlement in 1655, of wise government by a Dutch sergeant and of retention of the Protestant religion through many vicissitudes extending over 250 years. On the other hand a leading antagonist of the settlement of tropical Australia by a white race has publicly denied (at the Australasian Medical Congress of 1920) the very existence of this community and even of the island itself. The matter is one of much practical interest, as it is in reality an actual, if unpremeditated, experiment on a fairly extensive scale in white settlement in the tropics. Advantage was therefore taken during a recent official visit to the Dutch Indies of facilities afforded by the Dutch authorities for access to official records relating to these people (who are officially termed "Mestizos") over a period of more than 100 years. My inquiries in the Small Sunda Islands yielded an opportunity of landing at the island itself and of meeting a large number of the Mestizo residents. Others were also met at Koepang (Dutch Timor).

## Historical.

Genealogical trees, which have been compiled by the Dutch administration from the results of exhaustive local inquiry, show that at various dates between 1783 and 1819 there came to Kisar as soldiers or officials nine men of Dutch origin who took to themselves wives. Of these five married women of Dutch blood like themselves and four married women who were more or less tinged with coloured blood. None of the families date back further than the last quarter of the eighteenth century at earliest. In 1819 the Dutch East India Company decided to withdraw from Kisar the little garrison of soldiers and officials which had been posted there for over a hundred years previously. All the European families except these nine and probably three or four others of originally European name who had become almost indistinguishably submerged in the native population, thereupon left the island.

The Dutch had built two small forts, one near the landing on the western side and one about a couple of miles inland on a small hill commanding the native village of Wonreli. The little European community left behind after the withdrawal appear to have taken up their abode in and about the latter of these forts, the settlement being called *Kotta Lama*, the Malay equivalent of "Old Town" or "Old Fort." The commandant of the post in 1817 was a

certain Johannes Willem Joostensz, who had been born in Macassar in 1767 of Dutch parentage and who went to Kisar first in 1783. He there married a Dutch girl in 1788. He remained after the withdrawal and many of his descendants are now living in Kisar or at Koepang. Amongst the documents made available by the Resident at Koepang was a copy of a personal statement made in 1817 by this man, which gives precise dates of the principal details of his personal history. Portions of his statement furnish quaint sidelights on the customs of the Dutch in the Indies 150 years ago. For example, Joostensz as a child was taught dancing so that he might dance for the amusement of the Governor of Banda and the governor was so pleased with the results that the soldier who had acted as dancing master was made a non-commissioned officer. Joostensz also refers casually in his official statement to the fact that when his eldest legitimate son was baptized in the old church at Wonreli, one of his natural sons by a heathen woman living in an adjacent island was baptized at the same time.

The coloured population of Kisar numbered at least several thousands at the time of the withdrawal of the Dutch garrison. At the present day it comprises some 9,000 people. There was, however, very little inter-marrying between the European community and the natives after the withdrawal, a fact which can be checked fairly accurately from the genealogical trees. The Dutch East India Company discouraged marriages by its employees with native women and encouraged them to marry Christian wives of European or mixed origin. This tradition appears to have persisted throughout their history, even at their most submerged stage.

For some sixty years after 1819 the little community was practically forgotten and unvisited. Until the island is seen this is rather difficult to understand and a suggestion has been made to explain the continuance of European physical characteristics by the visits of whaling vessels. From a seaman's point of view, however, Kisar is a wholly unattractive place for a deep-sea sailing vessel. It is almost square in outline, possesses no harbours nor good anchorages (over 200 fathoms of water is found a short distance outside its dangerous reefs) and has no attractions in the way of wood or water readily accessible to ships' boats. From the sea it looks a dry, unattractive place. The old Portuguese town of Dilly (Timor) is readily reachable in either monsoon and possesses an excellent harbour. Several better places than Kisar from the seaman's point of view are within a day's sail. The disturbed conditions and interference with local administration which formed an aftermath of the Napoleonic wars and the British occupation of Java, together with extensive military operations over a period of many years by the Dutch against native kingdoms in Java and other islands, seem to have caused the Kisar people to have been totally overlooked, even to the extent of their omission from the records of civil status.

During the 'eighties of last century Baron Van Hoëvell, then Resident at Ambon (Amboina), in

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which district Kisar was then located for administrative purposes, became aware of this community and thereafter took much interest in them. They had degenerated very much, both physically and mentally, had relapsed into heathenism and had also lost the Dutch language. They had passed under the rule of the native Rajah of Wonreli and, except for the tenacity with which they kept their marriages within their own community and retained their family names, had practically lost all marks of European civilization. Several families are said, however, to have preserved their family Bibles up to 1908, when they were unfortunately destroyed in a typhoon which swept the island.

Baron Van Hoëvell's efforts resulted in assistance from the Dutch Government for the rescue of these descendants of forgotten Dutchmen from their lowly state. Christianity was re-introduced, marriages were celebrated in accordance with the regulations for native Christians and openings were provided for those who wished to proceed to other parts of the Indies. A *Wijkmeester* or head man was appointed. This official, Mr. C. Caffin, still holds the position and at the age of over 70 is a tall and striking-looking man who would pass anywhere for a bronzed European. Attempts were made to employ Mestizos in the navy and in the police, but without much success. Eventually twelve houses were built at Koepang (Dutch Timor) for the use of any of the Kisar people who desired to proceed there. Free education for their children was provided at the European school at Koepang and they were encouraged to work at various industries.

The community now numbers some 200 at Kisar, with about another hundred at Koepang and in various parts of the Indies. One of the Caffin family is a leading merchant at Gorontalo, in North Celebes, another is an officer of the Civil Service in charge of one of the neighbouring islands and a third is a managing clerk for a commercial firm in Dilly. A fourth is *Wijkmeester* of Kisar. Trades carried on by the Mestizos at Kisar and Koepang comprise weaving of a fairly good quality of cloth for sarongs and other native garments, chairmaking, carpentry and tailoring. They also breed goats, cultivate maize, vegetables and fruit and catch fish. Their houses at Kotta Lama are clean and well kept, but, except for a little European furniture, do not differ materially from those of the natives in the neighbouring village.

#### Personal Inquiry.

Some twenty-four of these people of all ages were interviewed at Koepang on May 3 and 10, 1921, another eight were seen on the steamer between Koepang and Kisar and on May 5, 1921, a visit was paid to Kisar itself. I was then able to visit their town of Kotta Lama and the native village of Wonreli and to see the majority of the Mestizo residents.

There can be no reasonable doubt as to the European origin of these people. Fully a third of those seen were of obviously north European descent, with fair hair, blue eyes, fair complexion and skin and distinctly European features and build.

European colouring and complexion were not uniform in any one family seen, but even in those families and individuals who show considerable intermixture with native blood, the European type of features persists. A number of really good-looking people were seen, any of whom could have passed for a European of unmixed blood. It was a curious experience to see at the landing place these flaxen-haired, fair-skinned, blue-eyed folk, speaking only Malay amongst themselves, gathered in little groups apart from the crowds of natives against the background of the old fort walls.

The head teacher of the European school at Koepang spoke highly of the mental attainments of the Kisarese children under his charge. There is no mediocrity amongst them; they react to education either very well or very poorly. Copybooks and school records produced showed a high average amongst the majority.

The report of a medical examination conducted in 1904 at Kisar described the Mestizo children of that day as mentally backward and physically degenerated. Inspection during my visit showed no obvious evidence of physical degeneration. Malaria exists in Kisar and of some twenty children examined, six had splenic enlargement of moderate extent. It is probable that the active and practical interest taken by the Government in their welfare of late years has improved their food supply, both in scope and quantity, with consequent improvement in the physique and mentality of the present generation.

The adults seen were for the greater part healthy, robust-looking people. Some of them were pock-marked. A severe outbreak of small-pox is recorded as having occurred about 1901. The fertility of the women is very marked and there appears to be no tendency for the race to die out. Up to recent years the girls have married at an early age and motherhood at fourteen is not unusual.

In response to a request for suggestions in connexion with the welfare of these people, I pointed out to the Chief Medical Inspector of the Civil Medical Service the desirability of undertaking a series of Binet-Simon or Porteus tests for mental reaction amongst Kisarese children at the Koepang European School and also at Kisar and of making an examination for hookworm, in view of the known influence of this disease on mental reaction and general development.

#### Conclusions.

The following conclusions may be drawn:

1. That nine families of originally north European or mixed north European and native blood have persisted on Kisar for over one hundred years and have bred to five and six generations. In the case of the Joostensz family, the known date of birth of the eldest Kisar-born child of European blood was 1789. His descendants down to the year 1914 numbered thirty-eight at least and possibly more. His father, J. W. Joostensz, Commandant at Kisar in 1817, was born at Macassar in 1767, giving an uninterrupted period of tropical residence for this family of 154

years on the paternal side and at least 135 years on the maternal side.

2. That this has not been accompanied by loss of European characteristics of complexion and features, except as a result of admixture of native blood, and that even when so diluted the European physical characteristics still come out strongly in the fifth and sixth generations.

3. That the European standard of mentality, as shown by reaction to European methods of education, persists in substantial degree after five and six generations.

4. That these characteristics have survived in spite of environmental conditions and associations lasting for over sixty years, from 1819 onwards, and probably for some seventy years or more, which are generally supposed to be totally unsuitable for persons of European stock. These conditions have included native standards of food and food supply, endemic malaria, the psychological effect of what must have been for the earlier generations an acute sense of abandonment by their own race, life under the rule of native chiefs, constant association with a native race of low mentality, loss of European language and European religion, inter-breeding to a high degree and constant exposure to a tropical climate.

5. That there is nothing in the available history of these people to show that a tropical climate *per se* has tended to produce degenerative effects on them or to limit fertility.

6. That whatever evidence they may have shown of lowered physical or mental activity in the past can be fully explained by the environmental conditions of food supply, malaria and particularly of native associations, aided possibly by the accentuation of stock-weaknesses arising from inter-breeding over several generations.

7. That the measures adopted by the Government during recent years appear to have resulted in definite improvement in their physical and mental condition, particularly amongst the children of school age.

#### References.

The following is a list of references to publications and official documents containing information relating to the Kisarese Mestizos which were consulted in connexion with the foregoing inquiry:

1. Family story from J. W. Joostensz, Commander of the Fort at Kisar, 1817.
2. A report on the physical condition of the Mestizos, Dr. Huijsman, 1904.
3. Fragment of an article by G. W. W. C. Baron Van Hoëvell, 1889.
4. Genealogical trees of the Mestizos at Kisar.
5. Report on Kisar by Lieutenant Testeege, *Gezaghebber* at Kisar from about 1913 to 1916.
6. "Vitse Kolonien," Van Rol.
7. "Reis H. M. Siboga," door Dr. Max Weber.
8. Pamphlet by A. B. Meyer: "Die Europäische Colonie auf der Insel Kisar," 1832. See 10.
9. "The Dutch East," Professor MacMillan Browne.
10. *Encyclopedie van Nederlandsch Oost Indië*, II., H.M. Article: "Kisar." With references to 8 and 11.
11. Articles by G. W. W. C. Baron Van Hoëvell. For references see 10.

## THE TREATMENT OF GONORRHOEA IN THE MALE IN GENERAL PRACTICE.

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THE treatment of gonorrhœa in the male may be described under two headings: (i.) general measures, (ii.) local measures.

#### General Measures.

Absolute rest in bed during the first week is desirable. As the patient is not usually agreeable to this, he should be advised to rest as much as possible during the acute stage. A suspensory bandage and gonorrhœa bag should be prescribed. Cleanliness should be insisted upon, the genitals being frequently washed with warm water. The habit of blocking up the discharge with wads of wool should be strongly discouraged. The diet should consist of food mainly derived from fats and carbo-hydrates; after the acute stage meat is allowed. Alcohol and condiments are considered harmful. The proper mental diet is of great importance. The disease itself makes the sexual organs sensitive, hence it is necessary to avoid all outside sources of stimulation.

Strict attention should be paid to the bowels.

#### Drugs.

Drugs prescribed in the treatment of gonorrhœa may be divided into three groups: (i.) sedative, (ii.) antiseptic, (iii.) specific.

Among the sedative drugs *Mistura potassii citratis cum buchû* is useful while there is scalding.

Morphine suppositories containing 0.015 grm. to 0.03 grm. or atropine suppositories containing 0.85 mgrs. are often used in acute posterior gonorrhœa; they tend to prevent anti-peristalsis and so lessen the risk of complications by extension of the disease.

Among the antiseptic drugs, hexamine, salol and boracic acid may be mentioned; they are considered useful in secondary infections by other organisms.

So-called specific preparations, such as sandalwood oil, copaiba and cubebs are of no use and frequently do harm, by upsetting the stomach and undermining the health of the patient. They merely cause œdema of the mucous membrane and thereby decrease the discharge temporarily.

No one can claim that any medicine is a specific for gonorrhœa, yet many patients get well by taking medicine only. These fortunate people are possessed of a high natural immunity against the disease.

#### Colloidal Preparations.

These preparations were introduced by McDonagh and are still on their trial.

We find their use attended by benefit in a first attack of acute gonorrhœa and in complications either by extension or metastasis. In a first attack of acute gonorrhœa they should be used as early