



Goedzichthuis
Westmalle Straat 16
Boganville

September 13th 2005

The Residence of the Ambassador
Private Bag #64
Pretoria
Republic of Zaire-Brazzaville

My dear Dr Watson,

It is with much pleasure that I finally find time to put pen to paper for your delectation. I am delighted to report that Dr Harrison and I have completed our field study from the expedition to the Northern Front of the Netherlands, which you were so kind to fund back in 2001.

Despite the extended exposure, the rigours of such a remote location, and the frequently intolerable conditions, I am highly pleased with our findings. The information which we have gathered is presented in the attached field notes. I have no doubt that they will prove invaluable from the physicians and sociologists who must surely follow in our footsteps (although one hopes they might be slightly better prepared than we were).

I must stress that had it not been for the regular and generous supplies of gin and tonic which you so thoughtfully sent through, dear Dr Harrison and I may have found ourselves confined to the Assen mental institution for ever.

? where?

Our kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Thomas H Barratt MPhil PhD LLD FRCS CBE

Chief Field Surgeon
Medical Research Unit
Her Majesty's Armed Services

Suit back from
dry cleaners?

Remember to invade
before the 14th

A treatise on medical ailments of the common Groupus Expaticus, as noted in the northerly provinces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and certain polar regions of the British Isles

1. Hobanitis

Symptoms; growing lack of commitment to group fun. Extreme version of Calvinism often synonymous with stingy behaviour and an almost complete inability to participate in enjoyable activities. The victim of this disease has frequent hallucinations of family commitments, sometimes to the extent of his future mother in law enjoying birthdays up to ten times per month. Some cases have been reported in association with bold announcements of impending car sale, only to find themselves in precisely the same position (with a flat battery) six months later.

Infectiousness; transmission path unclear, although growing anecdotal evidence suggests it may be venereal.

Cure; a week long "kill or cure" stay at chateau Hogarth.

2. Doylitis

Symptoms; hugely variable – may disappear completely early on Friday evening, only to reappear with renewed virulence by Sunday lunchtime. Sufferers have been known to devote their entire Sunday to complaints based on how short their weekend has become. Addictions may include cycling, nutella, and all things Italian. Sufferers have been known to fantasise about their Italian roots, even with surnames such as "Doyle" (the first recorded victim, after whom this terrible affliction was named (ed.))

Cure; anything with high sugar content. Extended holidays, although reports suggest that even the first day may be devoted to complaints regarding holiday length. Alternatively, long bike rides in the local hills. Time with sufferers of Austinoparosis may help. Indy rock band watching with angry Bosnians has also alleviated symptoms in several famous cases.

3. Chevillis

see over

Symptoms; compulsion to acquire electrical goods. An innate repulsion to anything electrical more than six months old. A seeming inability to orbit the Westerhaven Mediamarkt at anything less than 10 km radius without being sucked in. Unauthorised crusades to the holy ground. A belief that all electrical retail stores are in fact on ancient burial sites, and therefore worthy of worship. Often associated with delusional belief that it's actually for his wife.

Avoid; duty free and internet connections. Do not leave unattended with a credit card.

Cure; see *Hobanitis*

→ 4. *Hogarth Syndrome*

(subject whereabouts unknown - check ship manifests)

Symptoms; strong affinity for bling. People are often misdiagnosed with Hogarth syndrome – the committed physician must apply the only foolproof test, and check whether the subject can dispose of a full month's wages in 15 minutes.

Cure; variable. Successful cures have included care of a sufferer of *Hobanitis*.

5. *Austinoparosis*

Symptoms; strong allergy to children. Tolerance to any alcohol taken after 10 am. Regular but inexplicable loss of balance. Students of this complaint can most rewardingly study the behaviour of the lead actor in the classic work "School of Rock" which bears up well when held up against the case notes relating to confirmed sufferers. Sometimes manifests as a mild schizophrenia, leading even to internet postings in the name of a famous victim of *Doylitis*. Often associated with chronic pedal cycle abuse. Those looking to capture a specimen should note their tendency to associate with Australians of questionable morality. nb!

Infection path; apparently connected to Welsh ancestry.

Aggravating circumstances; train tracks have been noted.

Cure; repatriation is sometimes effective, although can sometimes accentuate symptoms. Sedatives such as Liege-Bastogne-Liege™ have also been tested, with some short-lived successes. An obscure German hospital has been reported to specialise in treatments, concentrating on extended exposure to Ukrainian flatulence to aid recovery. Long car journeys with current copies of *Happy Weekend* can also assist.

6. *Danielsism*, to be struck by a

Symptoms; this chronic complaint can prevent drinking, limit gluttony, prevent late nights, and in short – ruin lives. The *Danielsism* can be thought of as a distant cousin of the aneurysm, albeit a bizarrely unrecognisable cousin, with some doubts of paternity. First recorded in 2004, it presents as an uncontrollable urge to cycle at least 300 km per day over each weekend, in preparation for demonstrating athletic prowess (by accident or design) over occasional sufferers of *Hobanitis*, or the related condition, *Gollumism*. Although victims may be initially delighted with their new found aerobic fitness, eventual disappointment is guaranteed, once the supply of victims to crush dries up. ?

Cure; see *Austinoparosis*

7. *Annaschwartzia*

The advent of cases of this disease was recorded in close association with the growing prevalence of *TB* in the Netherlands, in late 2001, a scourge thought to have been dealt with adequately in the late 18th century by the compulsory inoculation of poor people. Hockey mania can easily result from an outbreak of *annaschwartzia*, even to the extent of preventing sufferers of *TB* attending their mandatory weekend healing sessions in Belgian monasteries (see *Westmalle, Leffe*, etc.) Paradoxically, some practioners have called for the controlled release of engineered strains of *annaschwartzia* into schools, to reduce the possible effects of *Austinoparosis*, although the technique has seen frenzied debate over the last months.

Cure; six months in the sun, preferably the Caribbean. When are we leaving?

8. *Hogan-Smith condition*

Symptoms – Hogan-Smith condition is a rare genetic disease that has been known to cause excess production of pheromones. This genetic dysfunction is often associated with heavy users of commonly occurring liquid – beer. Sufferers have also been known to develop a symbiotic relationship with a small fury animal. This particular relationship has become know as the chest wig situation, and is almost impossible to break. It is understood that the death of either party will invariably lead to the death of the other.

Cure – unknown. There is much concern regarding the case's impending move to the UK, especially with the excessive occurrence of "*cougars*" in the Aberdeen area. This may lead to sufferers of Hogan-Smith condition seeking ways to mask their dysfunction when in public areas.

nb Aberdeen
link

Treatment – early success was seen by a couple of visiting Finish "nurses" in late 2001, but moments of weakness have plagued the study-case since then.

9. *Belmont Liver Disease* (BLD)

Symptoms – amazing ability to consume alcohol, due to the creation of an enzyme in the liver aiding the breakdown of alcohol without the traditional byproducts. It is believed (but not confirmed) that some sufferers of BLD can process alcohol at twice the normal human rate. An unfortunate side effect is that sufferers frequently wake up on Sunday mornings (in fact, almost every Sunday morning) with the appearance of one mugged the night before on their way from the couch to the bedroom (and back again, in extreme cases).

Virulence – unknown, but God help us all

indeed!

Aggravating circumstances – Saturday evenings of months with an r in the name. Anything with port or dessert wine written on the label.

Cure – Sunday morning church with sufferers of *Hobanitis* (not sure we'll get away with this one...)

9. *Harrison's Curse*

Symptoms – Suffers of Harrison's Curse often suffer a deep seeded belief that they were meant to fly. Sufferers have also been known to commit to any form of adventure, despite the obvious risk to life and limb. The first reported case of Harrison's curse was observed being used as the punching bag at the beach rugby tournament, and has since been spotted in an Austrian medical facility with a slightly relocated shoulder. Harrison's curse is not believed to cause any long-term mental damage, and the only physical effect of Harrison's curse is the manifestation of large bushy sideburns on the sufferers face. A sudden improvement in windsurfing ability after an extended winter period of doing nothing has also been observed.

Cause – believed to have been sparked by an extended period of solitary confinement in the Emmen correctional facility.

Cure – Processes engineering "package" KATie 1.0 was effective in reducing much of the downsides of NAMitis associated with Harrison's curse. However, real success was gained by the implementation of KATie 2.0 and regular group therapy sessions with sufferers of TB in the Assen mental institution. No link has been made to the effect of bad coffee and fried food, but the physicians were hesitant to withdraw it from the therapy.

Periods of social activity with fellow sufferers of the *expaticus* family of diseases has been know to reduce the symptoms, however only extended periods of cohabitation with a member of the female species has been known to reduce the bushiness of the sideburns.

10. *TommyBurculosis (TB)*

Some scholars consider the recently observed virulent forms of *TB* to be related to the accidental sale of a gas field on the Atlantic margin to an Irish pub chain. Others point to changes in terms & conditions in the Aberdeen area, rightly observing that organisms do thrive in more favourable circumstances. All are agreed that it represents the greatest threat seen to Europe in decades.

check!

Symptoms – intolerance of badly cooked Italian food, small people, panthers, leopards, lions (but not jaguars), purveyors of small Austrian apartments. Enthusiasm for yeasty home-cooked ale, food, cakes, pies, fricandeu, caravanning in the north of France, and seizing the day (but not the nettle).

Cure – not yet discovered. Most promising approach seems to be denial of sunlight for six months, isolation from cultural activity, and regular application of the deep fat fryer. Results to be reported in the major journals in the summer of 2006.