

ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN MAILS.

413. Delivery of foreign mails may be taken before the Health Officer has granted pratique, subject to the Health Officer's concurrence; but no mails requiring disinfection may be brought ashore until they have been fumigated. Any illness on board a vessel arriving from abroad will necessitate consultation with the Port Health Officer before mails are removed.

414. (a.) On arrival of a foreign mail, officers must proceed as directed in Rule 412, except that, immediately on the detection of any error, a V.N., in duplicate, must be prepared, signed by two officers, and forwarded to the Secretary, pinned to the letter-bill. Any necessary corrections must be made in the letter-bill or registered list, the erroneous entries being struck through with a single plain pen-stroke in such a way as to admit of their being read. Such corrections, except in the case of an obvious error, are accepted in preference to the original statement.

(b.) Attention is specially directed to the need for a most careful examination of the condition of both seals and mail-receptacles. In this regard see Rule 412 (a).

415. In the case of non-receipt of a mail (ascertained by the numbering on the letter-bill), or of a registered article, the fact should be reported to the Secretary by telegraph, with full particulars and the V.N. sent as provided for in the preceding rule.

416. (a.) Unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence, including registered correspondence, is charged on delivery the deficiency marked by the despatching office. The minimum surcharge on correspondence from overseas is 15 centimes. For conversion of francs and centimes into shillings and pence see Rule 395. When, after converting the deficiency into pence a remainder below 5 centimes is left, it is not taken into account; for any remainder above 5 centimes, 1d. is to be charged. Newspapers, if bearing the inscription "*Abonnements-poste*," are to be treated as fully prepaid.

(b.) Every article of correspondence that does not bear the stamp "T" is considered as fully prepaid and treated accordingly, unless there be an obvious error.

(c.) Private correspondence from the United Kingdom not bearing ordinary postage-stamps but impressed with the "Paid" stamp is to be accepted in New Zealand.

(d.) Newspapers and periodicals from Canada impressed with a "Postage paid" stamp are to be delivered without surcharge.

(e.) Redirected surcharged articles, other than those insufficiently prepaid, should be charged on delivery only actual deficiencies. Articles insufficiently prepaid for their first destinations should be taxed double the deficiencies.

(f.) Correspondence posted on board mail-steamers or placed in the hands of masters of ships must be prepaid by means of postage-stamps, according to the tariff of the country to which such packet or ship belongs, or by which she is maintained. If the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two extreme ports of the voyage, or at any intermediate port, prepayment can be effected only by means of postage-stamps, and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the vessel happens to be.

(g.) All correspondence received loose from the Australian States, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands, must be marked "Loose letter," and surcharged in accordance with the instructions in the Guide for late-fee letters. Loose correspondence from all other places must be prominently marked or stamped "Packet-boat" at the office at which it is taken delivery of from the