M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 13

(2) Date of repair 29. 2. 40.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 224 Press Mis.

115-117.

Dated 17-2- 1873.

115-117 13/14

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Read the following papers :—

No. 115. From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 3rd February 1873, No. 329.

With reference to the Order of Government as per margin, I have the honour to report that, during the month of January, 139 deaths from cholera have been reported to me from villages in the Nellore District. The disease appears to have been limited to thirty-six villages during this period, and a Battery of Artillery in passing from Secunderabad to the Mount, by keeping free of infected villages, has arrived safely at its destination.

No. 155, of 1st February 1873.

2. From the very slow progress of the epidemic, I am not apprehensive of an outbreak in the town of Madras until June or July next; but I have met Colonel Denison and Dr. Balfour in consultation as to the measures to be employed should the epidemic visit us, and the measures will be severally reported upon by the Municipal and Medical Authorities as requested.

3. The whole of the districts south of the Kistna, with the exception of Nellore, are now free of cholera, and I have no reports of recent date from the districts to the northward, so that I am in hopes that the epidemic movement is, for the present, in abeyance.

4. I have lately addressed* the President of the Municipal Commission on the subject of the probable southward advance of cholera, and I have specially called attention to certain defects in the conservancy of the town. I have advocated a reform in the method of the collection of the refuse of the city, such as special carts for the night-soil and the destruction by fire of the dry refuse, and until this question is taken up by the Municipality and bye-laws sanctioned to enable them to prevent night-soil being mixed up with dry rubbish, the conservancy arrangements will not be satisfactory.

*No. 1391, of 3rd October 1872.

5. I beg to append copy of my letter on the subject, and should not trouble Government concerning the matter, only that I have been informed that the consideration of the question has been postponed, and that it is not the intention of the Commissioners to use the cinerators already constructed with the view of carrying out the reform I have advocated.

Referred to the President of the Municipality for his remarks.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
5th February 1873.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 116. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 10th February 1873, No. 2159.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, No. 329, of the 3rd instant, together with enclosure (herewith returned),

which have been referred to this Department for my remarks. I have already addressed you on the subject of the preparations made by the Municipality to meet the threatened invasion of cholera into Madras.

2. Since then I have received the report of the Budget Committee and observe in paragraph 7 the following remarks:—"We do not consider the provision for the 'Cinerator Establishment' necessary, as our inquiries have proved to us that the sweepings can be more easily and economically disposed of by being buried than by being 'shroffed' by a special establishment and then burnt. The cinerators may be regarded as failures." In my address to the Commissioners which will be read at the General Meeting to be held on the 15th instant, I have adverted to this, and hope that measures may be taken to bring the cinerators again into use.

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1873, No. 224.

The Governor in Council is satisfied that the Medical and Municipal Authorities are thoroughly alive to the necessity of being ready for an invasion of cholera, and that preparations have been made and precautions taken which will admit of speedy extension should the need arise.

2. The Government, however, desire that the attention of the Municipal Commissioners may be specially directed to the urgent necessity of providing for the improvement of the latrines in the town and suburbs. The separation of night-soil from the dry sweepings, the burning of the latter in the cinerators, and the removal of the former beyond the town to some place where it may be used as manure, would seem to be duties properly devolving on the Executive and should be insisted on by the President as its head.

3. The use of cinerators being so decidedly advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner, a heavy responsibility will be incurred by neglect to carry out his recommendation of a system which evidently cannot be injurious and may be productive of marked benefit to the health of the community.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, President of the Madras Municipal Commission.
,, Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

No. 1391

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Madras, 2? October 1876

From

To

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

The Officg Presidency
Municipal Commission
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 1886 of 23? September enclosure.

2. I am glad to be able to state that as the returns mention, the southwards movement of cholera seems to be in other areas while the disease is decidedly on the decline in Vizagapatam and the Godavery. In the Kistna District it has not become epidemic with Cuttack south of the Godavery: a few deaths however are daily reported from the upland tracts of this district in Palwancd and Kanigiri Condor.

3. From the town of Kurnool two deaths have been reported on the 17th September. Up to latest dates there has been no southwards extention of the disease within this direction and from the Mellore districts no deaths reports have been received of later dates.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 17th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 17th February 1873, No. 224.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 115—117.

Considering the preparations made and precautions taken by the Madras Municipality in the event of cholera invading the Presidency town to be satisfactory, and urging the use of the cinerators.

than the 21st August.

4. On a former occasion of an epidemic invasion of this Presidency ie in 1859, Cholera prevailed to a great extent in the northern districts but did not reach Madras until May or June of the following year, and again in 1869 Cholera appeared epidemically at Kurnool in January, but did not attack the Presidency town before June or July. From the temporary arrest of movement in a southern direction, I am inclined to think that the next few months may pass over, without any appearance of Cholera in the town.

5. In order that you may have all the data for judging of the probability of cholera breaking out in the present monsoon season, I give a table showing the monthly mortality from Cholera since 1855 and from this you will see that on no occasion had Cholera invaded the town as a new epidemic in the month of October. In the year 1863 there was apparently a local development of Cholera in October but the disease had

Return showing the deaths from cholera in the town of Madras from the year 1855

A.W.

Years	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
1855	305	351	136	30	14	2	6	45	390	358	207	112	
1856	167	128	181	132	147	29	12	2	1	3	1	2	
1857	4	152	161	135	81	126	114	74	117	115	138	160	
1858	433	323	126	28	116	92	94	111	128	128	137	249	
1859	349	463	130	72	20	10	12	7	6	3	2	8	
1860	3	2	2	6	21	88	1218	637	276	160	91	76	
1861	35	75	54	150	204	76	183	599	786	346	107	161	
1862	425	485	229	102	189	267	126	222	242	501	519	328	
1863	372	452	455	154	84	19	8	8	2	46	10	77	
1864	133	110	106	45	3	4	4	97	38	15	9	10	
1865	131	72	54	20	10	4	33	302	120	118	45	45	
1866	99	73	149	83	77	160	577	544	534	283	93	312	
1867	364	178	58	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	
1868	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
1869	-	-	-	2	5	8	80	226	147	73	16	11	
1870	37	15	9	48	77	392	113	121	20	22	3	4	
1871	7	13	24	20	173	83	36	41	85	10	1	-	
1872	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Note - The remarkable diminution in the cholera mortality of the town since 1866. is a fact concerning which more than one theory may be formed I do not think the data are sufficient to give the real explanation of the causes of the diminished mortality

and Central India. It is only right

been common during the early months of that year.

6. The facts therefore of the past eighteen years are rather against an outbreak in October or November. Still we must remember that in 1818 cholera made its appearance in the town of Madras on the 5th October, but in this year it had prevailed all thro' August and September in the Nellore district whereas in the present season only a few isolated cases have been reported from Nellore.

7. But whatever may be the actual progress of the epidemic in the next few months, we must not lose sight of the fact that epidemic cholera is actually existing almost across the whole breadth of the peninsula in the latitude of the Deccan, and that the epidemic advance to the southern districts is a question of time and season only. To my knowledge the southern provinces have never yet escaped participating in a general movement of cholera, such as has lately been affecting the North-West, Punjab and Central India. It is only right

therefore that every precaution should be taken during the present bild to improve the Sanitary Condition of the town, as far as this can be done with the means at the disposal of the Municipality.

8. The completion of the new water supply is likely to have an important bearing on the severity of the next epidemic of Cholera. You will now be able to guarantee to the townspeople, generally, a fairly pure water for domestic use and although we cannot compel every body to use this water in lieu of old sources of supply, it is quite evident that a very considerable section of the population will depend upon pipe water, and that in this one respect the people will be in a better position than they have ever been before during any previous cholera epidemic.

9. The drainage of the crowded parts of the town will be now the weakest feature in its sanitary position. The sewerage is undoubtedly very bad. There are many miles of rotten sewers which simply tend to the pollution of the soil and atmosphere. A town with an originally polluted subsoil is usually severely visited by cholera

epidemics, and there can be no question but that in this respect Madras is in an unsatisfactory condition, a condition that can be remedied only by an immense outlay of money for the collection removal and utilization of the liquid filth of the town.

10. The conservancy of the town might be improved. The fashion of collecting night soil and dry refuse in the same carts is very objectionable. If the dry refuse was collected by itself it might be burnt and disposed of without much nuisance or offence, but this is impossible when night soil is mixed with it. Night soil should always be removed outside of the town and converted into manure, and never be used for the filling up of old tanks and low grounds, as it has been too much the practice of the Municipal administration of late years, and against which practice I have had to protest as strongly as I could (Vide letters No. 254, 15th February 1871, C No. 15 of 4th August 1871).

11. The public latrines of Madras are all built on the very worst possible pattern

They are the most disgusting places of the kind that I have ever met with, and in seasons of cholera epidemics, if there be any truth in the view that the alvine evacuations contain the contagium of the disease I can readily understand that these latrines help in spreading it. The flooring of these places is always sodden with foul smelling matters. These buildings all require attention. In fact the sites now taken up should be cleaned and gradually covered with really decent latrines such as have been provided for the people at Coimbatore

12. The Municipality of Coimbatore has set an example in latrine building, which cannot too soon be followed in other towns. I have no doubt that there are situations in the town where water latrines may be economically provided and worked, but I cannot advocate the construction of any such places until arrangements have been made for the better removal of liquid sewage.

13. The improvement of the latrine accomodation of the town is a point urgently [illegible] town with an originally polluted subsoil is usually severely visited by cholera

requiring the attention of the Commissioners and although the needed outlay will be large I think it is a work that ought to be done as soon as possible. Meanwhile, as Mr. Lee suggests, temporary latrines (covered in) should be provided in places where they are wanted.

14. The condition of the remodelled parcheeries is on the whole, I consider, an improvement on the sheds existing in 1870 Doubtless they have still many defects, but they can now be daily swept and scavengered, a work that was impracticable before. The people [illegible] have become in some degree more civilised and to be cleaner in their habits than they were before. In this respect however improvement must be necessarily of slow growth. I do not think the enclosing walls alluded to by Mr. Lee are high enough to make the buildings unhealthy, and I should recommend that in these remodelled parcheeries, attention should first of all be directed to the metalling of the streets and clearing

of the side drains and careful daily scavenging. The filling up of the excavations around the parcheries with sweepings, might not be alluded to by Mr. Lee were doubtless an error in a sanitary point of view, and should be avoided in future works of this kind. On the whole I cannot but conclude that the improvements in the parcheries carried out under the late Mr. Govers superintendance will be found of material benefit to the health and cleanliness of the towns. The great thing in initiating a work of this kind is to teach the people who reside in towns that they must conform to the observances of town life and that no man can be allowed to be a nuisance to his neighbours. This the remodelled parcheries are bringing about.

I have &c.

(Signed) W.R. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

(True Copy)
W.R. Cornish. F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 3rd February 1873.

No. 329.

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

With reference to the Order of Government as per margin, I have the honor to report that during the month of January, 139 deaths from cholera have been reported to me from villages in the Bellary District. The disease appears to have been limited to 36 villages during this period, and a battery of Artillery in passing from Secunderabad to the Mount, by keeping free of infected villages, has arrived safely at its destination.

No. 155 of 1st Feb/73.

2. From the very slow progress of the epidemic I am not apprehensive of an outbreak in the town of Madras until June or July next; but I have met Colonel Denison and Dr. Balfour in consultation as to the measures to be employed, should the epidemic visit us; and the measures will be severally reported upon by the Municipal and Medical authorities as requested.

3. The whole of the districts south of the Kistna, with the exception of Bellary, are now free of cholera, and I have no reports of recent date from the districts to the northward; so that I am in hopes that the epidemic movement is, for the present, in abeyance.

4. I have lately addressed the President of the Municipal Commission on the subject of the probable southward-

*No. 1391 of 3rd Oct. 72.

Conthus and advances of Cholera, and I have specially called attention to certain defects in the conservancy of the town. I have advocated a reform in the method of the collection of the refuse of the city; such as special carts for the night soil and the destruction by fire of the dry refuse; and until this question is taken up by the Municipality and bye-laws sanctioned to enable them to prevent night soil being mixed up with dry rubbish, the conservancy arrangements will not be satisfactory.

5. I beg to append copy of my letter on the subject, and should not trouble Government concerning the matter, only that I have been informed that the consideration of the question has been postponed, and that it is not the intention of the Commissioners to use the cinerators already constructed, with the view of carrying out the reform I have advocated.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
W^m Loonie M.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

S. No 2159 Municipal Commrs' Office
Madras 10th Febry 1873.

From
Col. L. Denison
President Municpl Commrs
Madras

To The Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Sanitary Commissioners letter No 329 of the 3rd inst, together with enclosure (herewith returned), which have been referred to this Department for my remarks. I have already addressed you on the subject of the preparations made by the Municipality to meet the threatened invasion of Cholera into Madras

2. Since then I have received the report of the Budget Committee and observe in para 7 the following remarks.

"We dont consider the provision for the "Cinerator Establishment" necessary, as our enquiries have proved to us that the Sweepings

Rec'd 13 Feby 1873

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt
Public Department.

No 224

Dated 3rd } Feby 1873
Rec'd 5th }

No 329.

Subject

Observations
on the Municipal
the town of Madras
from the cholera &c &c.

Referred

Municipal Commissioners Office
Madras
Chairman

Sanitary Commissioner
Madras

Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St George

Sweepings can be more easily
and economically disposed of
by being buried than by being
"Shroffed" by a special Establish
-ment and then burnt. The Ci-
-nerators may be regarded as
failures." In my address to the
Commissioners which will be
read at the General Meeting
to be held on the 18th inst, I have
adverted to this, and hope that
measures may be taken to
bring the Cinerators again into
use.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servt
Thos Dennison President
Municipal Commission

Comp.° Ad 7/11/4

Financial Department.

4/120

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from the

Sanitary Commissioner, dated 3rd February 1873 No. 329.

Presidt Madras Municipal Comsn. dated 10th February 1873 No. 2159.

Order thereon 17th February 1873 No 224

The Governor in Council has reason to think that the attention of the Medical and Municipal authorities are thoroughly alive to the necessity of being ready for an invasion of Cholera and that preparations have been made and precautions taken which will admit of speedy extension should the need arise.

2. The Govt. however desire that the attention of

Fait 10th Feby 1873

From

The Presidt & Members of the Municipal Commissioners Madras.

To The Chief Secretary to Govt. Fort St. George.

No 2159 Dated 10th February 1873

Received 12th do

Subject Cholera

Sir

I am directed by the Commissioners to forward for the information of Government a copy of a Circular issued by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Govt. dated 3rd Instant on the subject of Cholera and to request that the Commissioners may be informed what steps they should take in the event of Cholera appearing in Madras.

I have &c

Jos Brodie

Secy

of the Municipal Commissioners may be especially directed to the urgent necessity of providing for the improvement of the latrines in the town and suburbs. ~~If~~ The separation of night soil from the dry sweepings, the burning of the latter in the cinerators and the removal of the former beyond the town to some place where it may be used as manure. ~~would seem~~ The duties [illegible] devolving on the Executive should be initiated by the President as it lead

The use of Cinerators being so decidedly advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner, ~~the Municipal Commissioners will~~ a heavy responsibility ~~will be incurred by neglect of this~~ to carry out his recommendation of a system which, evidently cannot be injurious and may be productive of marked benefit to the health of the community.

L. B.

To,

The Sanitary Commissioner. - 6
" Pres[t] Madras Municipal Com[rs] 6 } dup 22/2
Municipal & Med Dept - 6 }

40 (24 to

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Sanitary Commissioner
for

Dated Feb^y 17 } 1873. No. 224
Recd.

Nos. 115 117.

Considering the preparations made precautions taken by the Madras Municipality in the event of Cholera invading the Presidency town to be satisfactory and urging the use of the Aerator